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THE GRAPHIC

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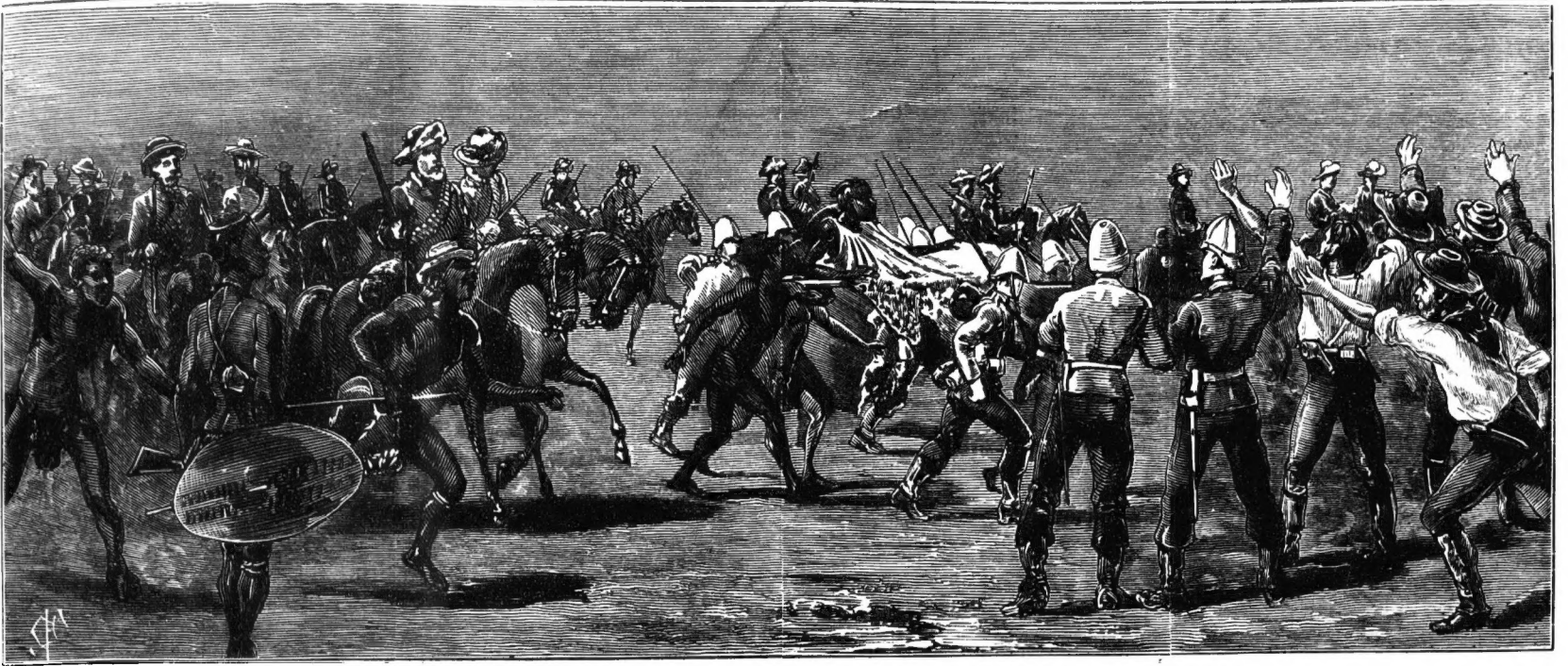
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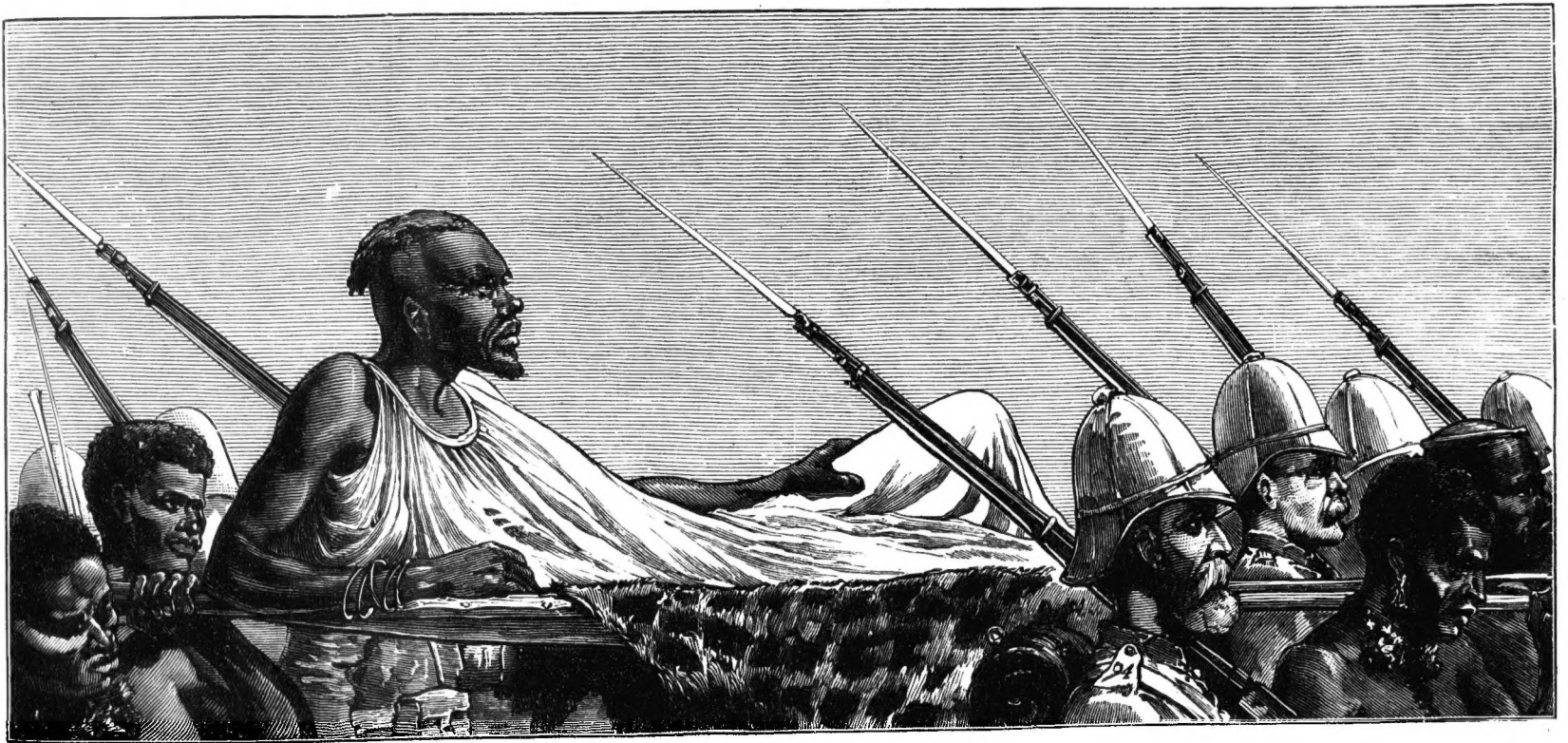
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THE CAPTURE OF SEKUKUNI'S STRONGHOLD

Topics of the Week

IRISH DISTRESS.—In 1862 the appeal on behalf of the sufferers by the Lancashire Cotton Famine met with a hearty and enthusiastic response. In 1880 the appeal of the Duchess of Marlborough on behalf of the famine-stricken peasantry in the West of Ireland has met with a cold and half-hearted reception. Why this difference? It is not, we may boldly say, because in one case the sufferers were Englishmen, and in the other Irishmen. It is because loyal people are disgusted by the anti-rent demonstrations of the autumn, followed as they have been by Mr. Parnell's tour of attempted agitation in America. As for Mr. Parnell, he seems to have done nothing but mischief on either side of the Atlantic. Coming as he did in the double character of agitator and alms-collector, he has annoyed the Americans by his attempts to embroil them in Anglo-Irish politics, and has thereby helped, as in this country, to lessen the amount of charitable donations. If Mr. Parnell had stayed quietly at home, a collective appeal made by the Irish clergy to their brethren in America would, we feel certain, have realised far more money. Indeed, as it is, it is through the clergy that most of the money has been subscribed. But meanwhile, while lamenting the mischief done by so-called patriots, we must not let these poor peasants starve. The distress, although fortunately not spread over so wide an area as in 1846, is very severe, and is certain, unless adequately relieved, to become severer, because these poor creatures, like shipwrecked mariners in an open boat, are living on a limited stock of provisions which cannot possibly last until another harvest. The Government must intervene to stop this distress, and our fear is that, from unwillingness to add to the public burdens, they will not act vigorously until the existing dearth becomes downright famine. The problem is simple enough. On the west coast of an island within a few hours of our own doors there are a number of hard-working people—our fellow-citizens, too—who are absolutely starving for want of food; while here there is, if not an abundance of food, an abundance of money to buy food and send it to Ireland. It would be an eternal disgrace to the Government of this Empire if, after coping successfully with far greater famines in India, they were, through hesitation or delay, to allow a single Irish peasant to die of starvation. What work is to be done in return for the relief seems to us a secondary matter, in settling which a little delay will do no harm. We earnestly trust, however, that there will be no attempt, as a condition of relief, to make the recipients of this public charity abandon their homes and enter the workhouse. These peasants are not idle, thriftless creatures—the stuff of which paupers are usually made. They are hard-working and saving, but they have been stricken by an unforeseen calamity. We might as reasonably send to the workhouse an industrious artisan because he had lost his chest of tools in a fire.

LIBERAL DEMONSTRATIONS.—If the Liberals are defeated in the approaching General Election they will have no occasion to blame themselves for having made imperfect preparations. Never, perhaps, did a political party make more strenuous efforts to influence opinion than they are now making. No sooner is one demonstration over than another is organised, and care is taken that the task of damaging the Government shall be entrusted to the most effective orators. At the latest of these demonstrations Mr. Bright has had an opportunity of once more setting forth the advantages which he and his friends have conferred on the nation, and Sir William Harcourt has provided his usual supply of elaborate jokes. It is difficult to speak with confidence of the effect produced by such demonstrations as these. That a large section of the community sincerely detest the Cabinet and are resolved, if possible, to turn it out, is certain; but it cannot be persons of this class whom Sir William Harcourt and Mr. Bright are anxious to reach. They have already made up their minds, and a speech more or less cannot make much difference in the course they intend to pursue. The politicians whom it is important to impress are those who do not feel themselves strongly bound to any particular party, and whose votes are given solely with a view to the promotion of the national welfare. In his oration on Tuesday, indeed, Sir William Harcourt seemed inclined to deny that there is any middle party of this kind; but the mere fact that all these demonstrations are held proves that its existence is recognised by the Liberal leaders as a body. It is exceedingly doubtful whether the speeches, of which those delivered at Birmingham are ordinary specimens, produce on men of this kind an effect favourable to the hopes of the Opposition. The tone of the speakers is far too violent to please impartial onlookers. Fair criticism would be listened to with respect, but unmeasured abuse of a policy which has been sanctioned by overwhelming majorities in Parliament is inevitably regarded with suspicion. Besides, no section of the Liberals except the extreme Radicals venture to give anything like a full definition of the policy which they themselves, if raised to power, would adopt. They do not tell us what they would do in regard to Afghanistan or Asia Minor, or what part they would play in any great conflict of interests in Europe by which our welfare might be affected. The real reason of this obviously

is that there are profound differences of opinion among the Liberals, and while these differences last it may be questioned whether any amount of eloquence or any number of witticisms will add largely to the list of Mr. Gladstone's followers.

THRIFT.—After the wearisome partisan speeches of which we have had so many during the last few months, it is quite a refreshment to read Lord Derby's sensible address on the above subject. He is seen at his very best in dealing with such topics, and we hope that, besides appearing in the transient columns of a newspaper, which is literally "here to-day, and gone to-morrow," these sound words will be reprinted, and hung in many a workshop and cottage. Some of his hearers, indeed, might be inclined to say to Lord Derby, "It would be easy enough to be thrifty, were one as rich as you." And there is some force in this objection. A poor man has the same sized stomach as the rich man, and other appetites in equal proportion. Yet a few glasses of gin and screws of tobacco will make a serious hole in his pocket, whereas the man of substance may drink wines of the choicest *crus*, and smoke cigars of the most approved brands, without retrenching any of his necessary outlay. Well-to-do people, when they are preaching thrift to the poor, are too apt to forget this obvious view of the matter. We fully agree with Lord Derby that the existing inducements to thrift might be enhanced by increasing the maximum sum depositable in savings' banks, and also, we venture to think, by making investments in the Funds, and in Home securities generally, as easy and inexpensive as is the purchase of foreign coupons at present. But the chief reason, we suspect, why the working classes, as a body, are unthrifty, is not so much for want of facilities of investment, as because of the uncertainty of employment, which causes them to be engaged by the week, and even by the day. It is notorious that clerks are more thrifty than artisans, and often maintain a better appearance on an equally small income. Is this not due in some degree to their comparative permanency of position? We have touched on this subject before, and we wish intelligent working men, especially those who are organised in Trades' Unions, would examine the matter seriously. If, in some of our great industries, men were willing to make agreements for a year certain, much of the misery and ill-blood now caused by strikes and disputes would be avoided. The method might be applied to piece-work as well as to day-work, and it would be found that, under these conditions of permanency, a rate of wages nominally lower than those now current would yield far more comfort.

"DEMOCRATIC IMPERIALISM."—The political articles in the current number of the *Quarterly Review* have given occasion to a good deal of talk this week as to the rise of a new party in England. It is not very exactly defined, but is represented as adopting in the main what are supposed to be the leading political ideas of Lord Beaconsfield. This party, it seems, has something very like contempt for Parliamentary institutions; it reserves its veneration for the Monarchy on the one hand and for the mob on the other. And we are assured that if the Government were to obtain a new lease of power, there would be a serious danger of the Constitution being modified in the direction of Democratic Imperialism. It may be admitted that if there was any truth in this view the question would be one of immense practical importance. The working of the Parliamentary system is often attended by inconvenience; but experience has proved that, at least for the Anglo-Saxon race, no other system affords so many guarantees for freedom and progress. Were it imperilled, the whole civilised world would look on with interest, and the discussion of the subject would soon convulse all classes of English society. But who believes that any such peril as this has really arisen? It is true that the present Parliament has decided most questions in a spirit which is exceedingly displeasing to English Radicals; but this has not been caused by undue deference on the part of the majority either to the Crown or to the multitude. The majority was fairly elected, and its deliberate convictions have been in accordance with the general policy about which there is now so much outcry. Let the country send to St. Stephen's a Parliament of a different complexion, and public affairs will be administered in a manner exactly suited to the change. All this is very well known, yet we have probably not heard the last of the terrible plot which is to undermine our liberties. Sir William Harcourt spoke the other day of Tory "bogeys," but the "bogeys" do not seem to be all on one side. This particular "bogey," however, frightens nobody, and will be quickly forgotten when it has served the purpose for which it has been created.

STREET ACCIDENTS.—Cabmasters and cabdrivers not unnaturally feel that they are already pretty well "chivied" about by the police, and they are rather sore at seeing a sort of amateur police force spring up in the form of the Street Accident Prevention Society. If, however, this body can really materially diminish the number of deaths and injuries by vehicles in London streets, they will earn the thanks of the public, whatever the cabmen may think. But we must not be too sanguine that much can be accomplished by any society, however well-intentioned and energetic. Street accidents, like most other evils, arise from a variety of causes, some of which are beyond the control of either societies or Acts of Parliament. There are people who are either unpunctual, or whose time is supposed to be of great value.

These persons will bribe cabmen with extra fares to drive at a headlong pace. There are people who, from fancied kindness, make cabmen drunk by treating them. There are about the streets, at all hours, reckless, dare-devil children, and grown-up people who are equally careless, or purblind, or deaf. One or other of the causes which we have enumerated will be found to be at the bottom of most run-over cases. The question of carrying lights seems to us of minor importance. Between the gas and the moon it is never so dark in London streets that a vehicle at a little distance is invisible, and, judging by our own experience on wet, windy nights, when umbrellas are being blown inside out, and every puddle in the roadway is a looking-glass—the most dangerous of all weather for street accidents—the foot passenger is rather dazzled than assisted by the lights of swiftly-approaching vehicles.

CRIME AND DETECTIVES.—We do not wonder that the failure, so far, to detect the perpetrator of the Manchester murder has caused a great deal of uneasiness. Within the last year or two there have been a painful number of cases in which the police have been unable to track criminals of the worst type; and there is a real danger that this well-known fact will encourage ruffians who have hitherto been deterred by the chances of discovery. It seems to us, however, that there is something unreasonable in the reproaches which are frequently addressed to the police on the subject. Most people vastly overrate the power of the police in such matters as these. They appear to suppose that detectives should have almost superhuman ingenuity, and that if a crime is not at once brought home to the criminal the delay must be due either to indolence or to stupidity. But the detective of real life has to work amid very different conditions from those which are usually depicted in novels. Clues do not always conveniently present themselves, and when they do, the police must take advantage of them with the utmost caution. It is a terrible misfortune when an innocent man is accused of heinous crime, and we have had recent proof that even in these days such a misfortune is not impossible. If the police were to accept the advice which is often thrust upon them, they would arrest every one against whom there is the slightest suspicion. This would be very much worse than the evil from which we at present suffer. All that can be said is that detectives should be men of intelligence and of approved character; and if the authorities take care that they are so, we have no right to condemn them because they sometimes fail to show themselves as clever as we expect them to be. It is right that we should recall the many instances in which, notwithstanding an extraordinary complication of circumstances, they have managed to penetrate to the truth.

ASSIZES v. SESSIONS.—It was quite right in the days when numerous offences were punished by death to send persons charged with such offences to be tried at the Assizes, where their cases would be heard before Judges of the highest eminence. But the necessity no longer exists now that minor penalties are inflicted for almost all these offences, and the distinction between some of the breaches of the law which are respectively triable at Sessions and Assizes seems of a very artificial character. For example, if a thief breaks into a house before nine o'clock, he is a housebreaker, and may be tried before a magistrate, but if he defers his nefarious work till the clock has struck nine he becomes a burglar, and is privileged to appear before one of Her Majesty's Judges. The Judges are constantly complaining that their time on circuit is often wasted, especially in the smaller towns, by having to try trivial cases of larceny, and so forth, but nothing has yet been done to remedy the evil. If the Government manage to get the Criminal Code enacted during the coming Session, perhaps they will insert a clause empowering magistrates to commit for trial, according to their option, either at Sessions or Assizes, in all cases except (as a Chairman of Quarter Sessions advises in a letter to *The Times*) treason, murder, manslaughter, conspiracy, and possibly forgery and perjury.

JULES FAVRE AND THE DUC DE GRAMONT.—The death of these two public men has vividly recalled to Frenchmen one of the most painful epochs in their history. Of the Duc de Gramont the best that can be said is that in urging the late Emperor to declare war with Germany he believed himself to be acting for the good of his country. It is easy now to perceive that he was mistaken; but we must remember that he belonged to a generation which had been taught to see in any accession of power to a neighbouring State an injury to France and a danger to civilisation. Every Frenchman who had been influenced by M. Thiers took this view, and in accepting it the Duc de Gramont was neither better nor worse than his neighbours. His error was that he did not take sufficient pains to inform himself as to the real strength of France and her antagonist. He rushed into a vast conflict trusting to vague impressions, and so terrible were the consequences of his blunder that it would be too much to expect his countrymen to forgive him. As for M. Favre, it cannot be said that in the trying period in which he wielded power he acted either with dignity or discretion. His saying about "our fortresses" and "our territory" was perhaps the most unfortunate one ever uttered by a French statesman; and the tears which he shed during his memorable interview with Count Bismarck will never be remembered to his credit. Still, it should not be forgotten that he was a constant and vigorous enemy of

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despotism. When many other Liberals made their peace with the Empire, he persistently maintained the right of France to free institutions; and he did as much as any one to prepare the way for the better days through which his country is now passing. As a practical statesman his weak "point" was a tendency to trust rather too much in pretty and high-sounding phrases. In this he resembled many of his friends who were associated with the movements of 1830 and 1848. It is one of the best signs of the France of to-day that she appears to prefer statesmen of a quieter and more energetic type.

NOTICE.—With this Number is issued an EXTRA DOUBLE-PAGE SUPPLEMENT, entitled "A PEEP IN CUPID'S MIRROR."—The Half-Sheet this week, though delivered in the middle of the paper, must be placed for binding between pages 92 and 101.—A NEW SERIAL STORY, entitled "LORD BRACKENBURY," by MISS AMELIA B. EDWARDS, Author of "Barbara's History," "Debenham's Vow," &c., will be commenced in "THE GRAPHIC" ON FEBRUARY 14 NEXT, and continued weekly until completed. The Illustrations will be from the Pencil of LUKE FILDES, A.R.A.

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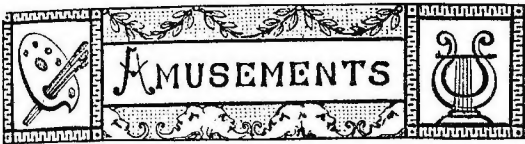
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THE CAPTURE OF SEKUKUN'S STRONGHOLD

CUPID'S MIRROR

See page 94.

A TRIP TO THE NEW ZEALAND HOT LAKES

We have already, in our issue of August 23, 1873, No. 195, published illustrations and a description of the Hot Lakes of the North Island of New Zealand, a short summary, therefore, may suffice here. The lake region in question lies about equidistant between the great central Lake Taupo and the Bay of Plenty, and the whole district surrounding these lakes is a zone of hot springs, solfataras, and mud-volcanoes. The most remarkable part of the lake region is the small Rotomahana or Warm Lake, with its boiling springs and siliceous terraces. The chief sight, however, is the Te Tarata, an immense boiling cauldron, situated at the north-east end of the lake, eighty feet above the surface. The surplus water flowing down the hillside into the lake has formed a siliceous deposit in a series of ridges and terraces. These are of pure white, but the terrace of another fountain at the south-west end of the lake is of a pinkish hue.

Our illustrations, which are from sketches by Miss Mary B. Dobie, of May Cottage, Auckland, N.Z., represent the adventures of a small party of ladies and gentlemen, who visited the Hot Lakes from the coast at Tauranga. In the first picture the cavalcade are seen careering along prosperously, the pioneer leading, a Maori bringing up the rear. The journey lay through park-like land, pumice stone and the tea-tree being notable features. Presently they came to a swamp, and while making their way across it two mishaps occurred, first, the pack-horse ran away, causing a general stampede, and, secondly, the best horse got bogged, but was eventually extricated by the Maories. In crossing a river the canoe contained the party, their saddles and packages, while the horses and dogs swam behind. Tarawera is described as the most picturesque of this group of lakes, being surrounded by rugged rocky bluffs, shaded by fine woods, and bounded on the east by a rock-crowned mountain. Here the party are depicted camping out on a fine moonlight night. Beds for the ladies were dug out in the sand, with the men and dogs gathered round the fire. The next picture represents the hot springs. Both Pakehas and Maories are enjoying warm baths, a party of the latter are squatted round the fire, while one of the gentlemen is carrying an enormous watermelon. The last sketch represents a thirty miles pull down stream, the banks of the river being covered with flax, cabbage-palm, and peach-trees.

SKETCHES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

THESE two illustrations pretty well explain themselves. "Hair Cutting" forms an amusing contrast to one of our fashionable "barbering" establishments at home, where there is an army of white-uniformed servitors, and brushes are sent spinning round by the aid of machinery. In British Columbia the appliances are decidedly primitive, the patient continues to smoke a pipe while under the shears, while the two aboriginals look on at the ceremony with keen interest. The second sketch shows how young horses are broken to harness at Fort McLeod, on the Saskatchewan River. It is fortunate that the ground is covered with a soft bed of snow, as the breaker-in must be liable to find himself occasionally pitched off the sledge.—Our engravings are from sketches by Mr. H. Bullock Webster.

BRITISH HONDURAS

THIS little colony, which is situated on the east coast of Central America, about midway between Panama and the Gulf of Mexico, is comparatively little known to Englishmen at home, save as a storehouse of mahogany and logwood, which form its staple trade.

It has recently been explored by Mr. Henry Fowler, the Colonial Secretary, and a party of Indians, with a view to test the truth of the prevalent idea that minerals, and more especially the precious metals, existed in the interior. Thus Mr. Fowler ascended the Belize River to the Cay, and thence to beyond the confines of Guatemala as far as the source of the river where he had heard that gold existed. None, however, was found, and the party returned to the Cay, whence they struck across to the sea overland. They experienced considerable difficulties throughout their journey, as the country was exceedingly hilly and precipitous, and the weather both boisterous and wet. Numerous ruined Indian villages were met with, but the country was apparently completely deserted. After a fortnight's travelling the Deep River settlement was reached, and the party embarked back to Belize. The results of the expedition are thus summed up in a capital little work, in which Mr. Fowler has written an account of his journey, and wherein he gives some interesting details of the resources, as well as a sketch-history of the colony:—

"The interior of the colony was found to be a succession of valleys and hills from 1,200 feet to 3,300 feet above the level of the sea, and may be divided into pastoral, mineral, and agricultural districts, each of which can be fairly defined. That it was once inhabited is proved by the ancient ruins found during the journey, and population is only requisite to convert a desolate waste into luxuriant homes, for the soil is rich. The climate would be found suitable to Europeans, and the wide range of altitude can easily be availed of as circumstances required. The most important discovery to be considered is the indications of mineral wealth. The sandstone, shale, anthracite, quartz, and veins of ores of mineral kinds met with, together with the formation of the country, justify the belief that it is highly probable coal, gold, or silver may be found. This mineral district is a belt of country twenty or thirty miles broad, running north-east and south-west from the south of the Cockscomb Range into the neighbouring republics of Guatemala and Honduras, and parallel to and distant from the coast as the crow flies about twenty-five miles. It is known that opals and gold have been found and gold mines are being worked in those countries which adjoin our frontier. The quantity of gold dust produced from the Honduras mines has increased considerably of late, and it has become a means of remittance by the Belize merchants in consequence of currency difficulties."

Mr. Fowler naturally thinks, however, that all these resources need developing, and that capital is wanted; but begs his readers not to confound British Honduras with Honduras itself, whose name is not in the sweetest of savour on the London Stock Exchange. One of the most interesting portions of Mr. Fowler's book is the account of the Yucatecan Indians and their oracle-speaking idol Santa Cruz.

MR. SERJEANT JOHN HUMFREYS PARRY

THIS eminent legal advocate was the son of the late Mr. John Humfreys Parry, barrister and Q.C., an eminent Welsh scholar, being known as the editor of the *Cambro-Briton*, and the author of the "Cambrian Plutarch," and other works. He was born in London in 1816, and educated at the Philological School, Marylebone. Being at first intended for a commercial career, he served for some years in a merchant's counting house, but soon turned his attention to literature, and obtained an appointment in the Book Department of the British Museum, which however he did not hold long. In 1843 he was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple, and his abilities as an advocate and a cross-examiner enabled him to rapidly work himself into a lucrative practice, until at last he became one of the most popular pleaders of his time. In 1856 he received the coil of a Serjeant-at-Law; in 1864 he obtained a patent of precedence, was subsequently one of the leaders of the Home Circuit, and in 1878 was elected a Bencher of the Middle Temple. In politics he was an advanced Radical; was one of the founders of the Complete Suffrage Association, started in 1842, and about that time was a frequent speaker at Chartist meetings. In 1847 he contested the city of Norwich in the Radical interest against the present Duke of Wellington, but was defeated; and was also unsuccessful in the general election of 1857, when he was one of four Radical candidates for the borough of Finsbury. Of late years he took but little interest in politics, but worked actively in his profession almost up to the day of his death. Indeed, so unexpected was the sad event, that in consequence of it adjournments had to be made in several causes in which he had accepted briefs. The remains of the late Serjeant Parry, with those of his wife (who, it will be remembered, died on the same day), were interred on Thursday last week at Woking Cemetery, Surrey, "earth-to-earth" coffins being used. The funeral was strictly private, in accordance with the wishes of the deceased; but it was attended by the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and many eminent members of the Bar.

GENERAL SIR JOHN LOW, K.C.B., G.C.S.I.,

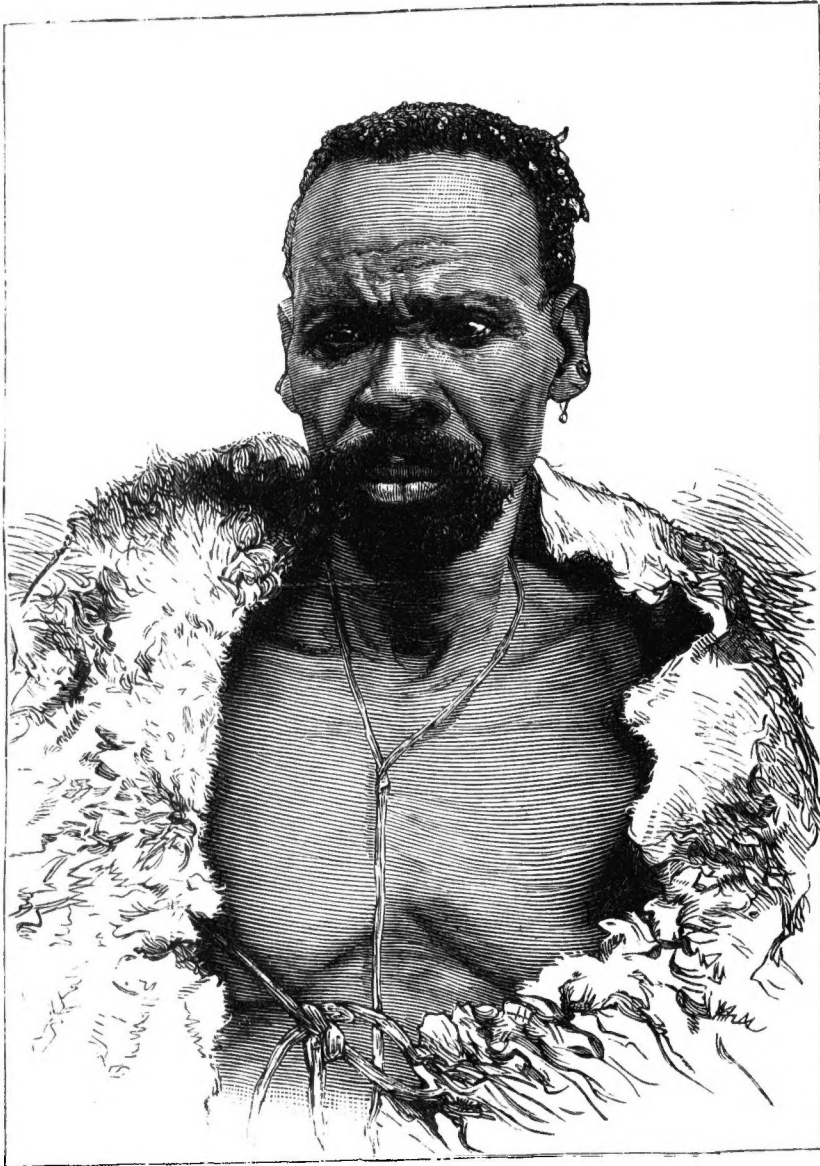
WHO was the senior general officer of the Indian Army, was the eldest son of the late Robert Low, Esq., of Clatto, near Cupar, Fife, where he was born in 1788. He was educated at St. Andrew's University, and, entering the East India Company's Army in 1805, he served with distinction in Java in 1811, when he was severely wounded. He acted as aide-de-camp to Sir John Malcolm throughout the Mahratta War. He afterwards held several important political posts, being successively employed as Resident at Gwalior and Lucknow, and as agent in Rajpootana, and was several times specially thanked for his services by the Indian Government and the Court of Directors of the East India Company. In 1853 he was appointed Military Member of the Council of India, which post he held throughout the Mutiny. He finally retired from India in 1858, after fifty-three years' service, and was gazetted K.C.B. in 1862, and Grand Cross of the Star of India in 1873.

LIEUTENANT HENRY HODGES FORBES

WAS the eldest son of Colonel H. T. Forbes, of the Bengal Army, and grandson of the Hon. Robert Forbes, brother of the late Lord Forbes, of Castle Forbes, Whitehouse, Aberdeenshire. He was born on the 30th of August, 1858, and entered the army as Sub-Lieutenant in H.M. 3rd Regiment (the Buffs), in October, 1876. In 1878 he was appointed to the 44th Regiment, N.I. (Assam Light Infantry), quartered at Shillong, which was ordered on service against the insurgent Angami Nagas in November last. On the 22nd November the stronghold of the Nagas at Khonoma was attacked by the 43rd and 44th Regiments, with two guns, under Lieutenant Mansel, R.A. The fort was stoutly defended by a force of over 1,000 Nagas, well armed with rifles and spears, and successfully resisted three assaults by our troops. In the last assault the centre attack was led by Lieutenants Ridgway and Forbes, of the 44th Regiment, who both fell severely wounded. The latter officer, who was gallantly charging at the head of his men, received his death wound from a javelin which had been thrown from the parapet into the air, and which in falling pierced his back. He was carried to the camp at Suchima, where he died on the 1st December. Lieutenant Ridgway, who was shot through the shoulder, is recovering, and has been recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Colonel Nuttall, commanding the 44th Regiment, was slightly wounded, and Major Cock, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General of the Force, was killed on the same occasion.

Our portraits are from photographs:—General Low, by T. Rodger, St. Andrew's; Lieutenant Forbes, by Bourne and Shepherd, India; and Mr. Serjeant Parry, by Boning and Small, 22, Baker Street, Portman Square, W.



SEKUKUNI, THE BASUTO CHIEF
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT PRETORIA IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS CAPTURE

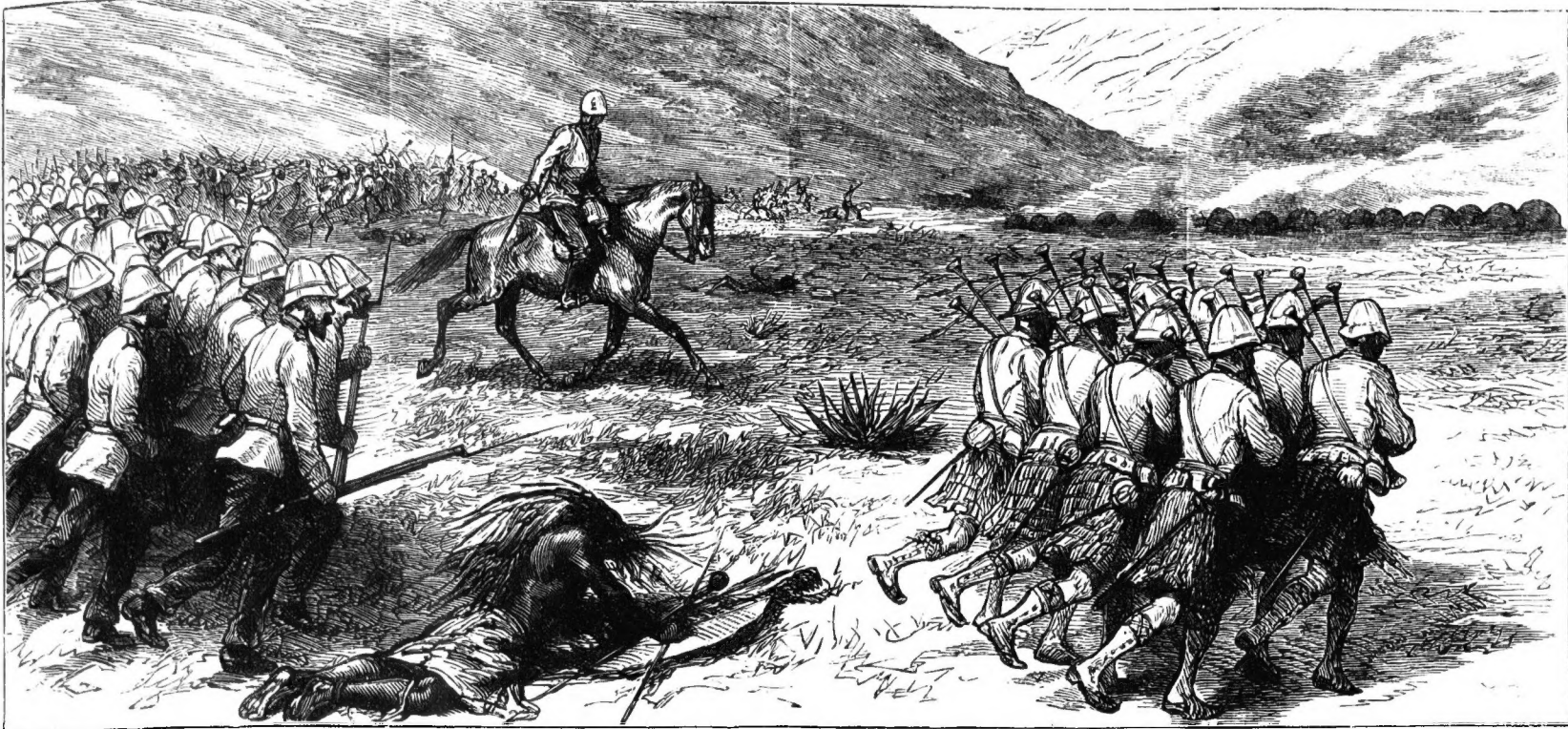


BOVANE, THE SWAZI COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

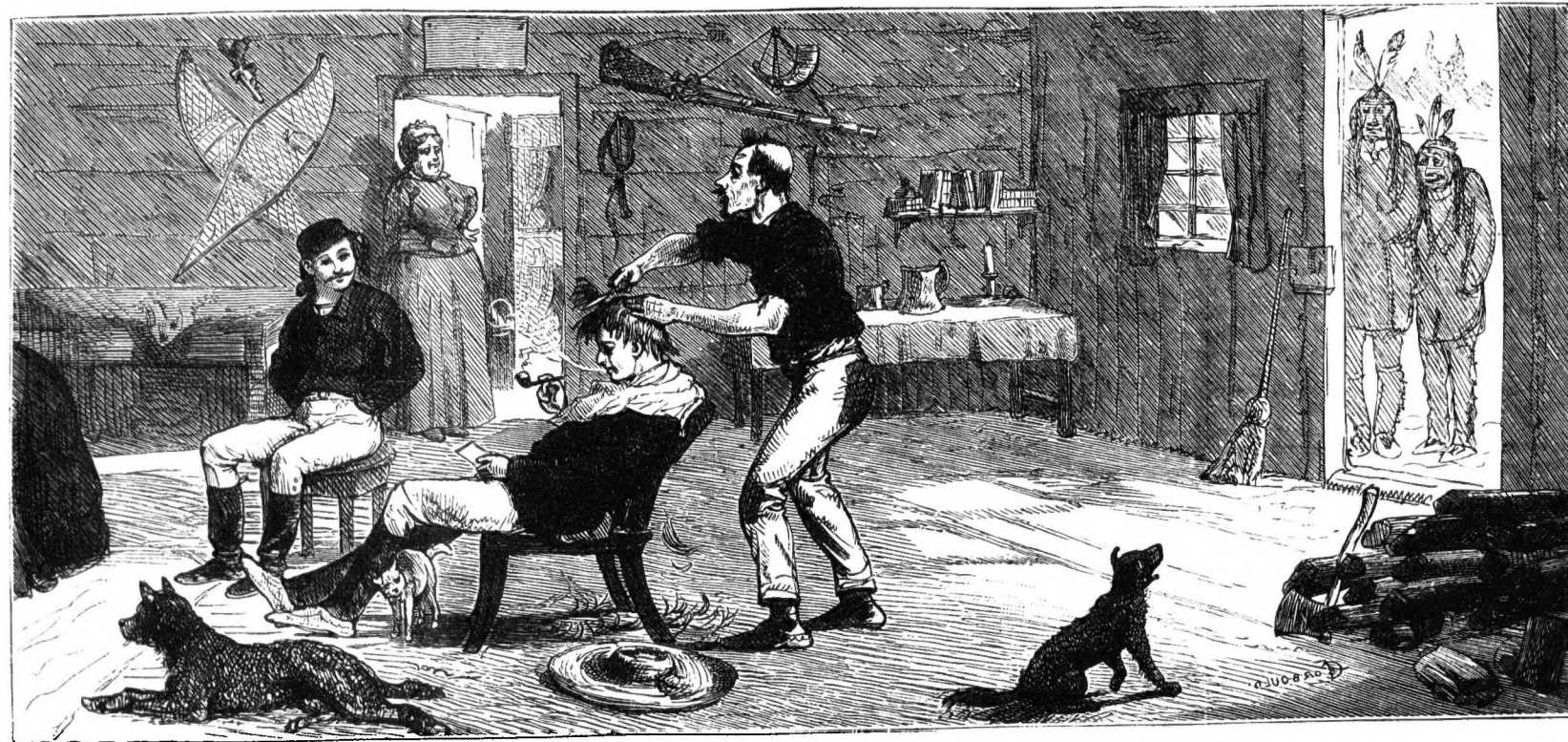


SIR GARNET WOLSELEY CHEERING ON THE SWAZIES

THE CAPTURE OF SEKUKUNI'S STRONGHOLD



THE CAPTURE OF SEKUKUN'S STRONGHOLD—PIPERS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST (R.S.F.) PLAYING THE SLOGAN



SKETCHES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA—OUR HAIRCUTTER



SKETCHES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA—BREAKING YOUNG HORSES TO SLEDGE HARNESS

THE EGYPTO-ABYSSINIAN DISPUTE—VIEW OF THE PORT OF MASSOWAH

MASSOWAH, or Musaura, or Masaura, a port on Eastern Africa, and which has for some time past been a cause of contention between Egypt and Abyssinia, was visited by H.M.S. *Seagull* in November and December last for the protection of British subjects, the Abyssinians having demanded the surrender of that port from Egypt, and having threatened to march on the town. "On the *Seagull's* arrival on the 24th of November," writes Lieutenant R. J. Rogers, to whom we are indebted for the sketch, "the Abyssinian army was only a day and a half's march from the place, and Gordon Pasha was detained in Abyssinia, so that our arrival is said to have stopped the Abyssinians from attacking the place."

"Massowah Island, the port of Abyssinia for the last three centuries, was taken possession of by Egypt in 1877; is situated in the northern extremity of Harkikö Bay, and is separated from the mainland by a narrow channel which forms a good anchorage."

"The island is half-a-mile long and about 400 yards wide, formed principally of coral rocks, of no height, and in great decay. Nearly half the island is occupied with tanks and a burial-ground; on the inner half is the town, which is crowded to the water's edge with inhabitants. Like all Eastern places, it possesses a bazaar, which abounds in filth, and altogether is in a wretched condition. Jowale, beef, mutton, fowls, dates, and sometimes fish, a little fruit, and a few eggs, can be procured. Water is scarce, and brought from a village called Makulla, seven miles distant. During November, December, and January the climate is very pleasant; but during other months it has the reputation of being the hottest, and one of the most unhealthy places in the world."

"Massowah Island is connected to an island called Jezirah by means of a causeway one-third of a mile long. Jezirah is connected to the main in a like manner. This inner causeway is 1,200 yards long, and commanded by a small nine-gun fort. The palace and barracks are built on Jezirah."

BENEATH THE STAGE

HERE we have a sketch in that underground wilderness, the space beneath the stage of a large theatre, where curiously constructed machinery and all the paraphernalia of side-traps, vampire-traps, and fly-traps meet you at every turn, and the unwary intruder runs imminent risk of being suddenly shot up into space like a new George Conquest, or being dropped into the lowest depths like the demon king in a pantomime. In our illustration, however, a more serious and dignified appearance is about to be made on the stage. Above, the opera of *Hamlet* (*Amleto*) is being played, and the ghost of Hamlet's father is slowly rising to the strains of Ambrose Thomas's pleasing music, and to the operatic adaptation of Shakespeare's incomparable words by MM. Barbier and Carré.

THE AFGHAN WAR

GENERAL ROBERTS is busy strengthening his military positions round Cabul. Block houses are being erected on the western side, while the communications between the Bala Hissar and the Sherpur Cantonments, and between both and the rear, are to be rendered safe by the erection of a fortified post on the Siah Sang Hills. The defences of the cantonments themselves also have been strengthened, and all forts and walls within 1,000 yards have been levelled, while the river is to be bridged between Sherpur and Siah Sang. General Roberts is all the more anxious to make his position as secure as possible, as the whole line between the Khyber and Cabul is described as being in an intensely expectant, not to say feverish condition; while, on the other side, Ghazni is now the rendezvous of all the discontented Afghans, and there is no lack of rumours of attempts being made to revive the combination against us. Fortunately, however, dissension reigns between the military and religious chiefs, while Mahomed Jan has gone to Zurnat, and Mooshk-i-Alum to his own district of Wardak. Young Moosa Khan, the son of Yakoub Khan, however, is at Ghazni, and the care of Sirdar Tahir Khan, the only Sirdar of rank who supports him. To return to the Khyber line, the Mohmuds have been somewhat troublesome of late, and on Tuesday week a force of 5,000 crossed the Cabul River near Fort Daka, but were attacked and driven back by a small body of men under Colonel Boisragon. General Gough is now in command of the whole Khyber line of communications from Jumrood to Cabul.

In Cabul itself all is quiet, martial law has ceased, and General Hill has given up his post of Governor to Sirdar Wali Mahomed, whose appointment may be expected to have a great effect in the pacification of the surrounding districts. In Western Afghanistan anarchy still seems to prevail at Herat.



THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—It is officially announced that Her Majesty the Queen intends to open Parliament in person. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has issued a "whip" to the Conservative M.P.'s, asking their attendance at the opening of the Session, "as important business will be brought forward immediately."

POLITICAL AFFAIRS.—Birmingham, which has been preternaturally silent during the recent political demonstrations, has had its innings this week. On Tuesday, at a banquet held in celebration of the opening of the Liberal Club, speeches were made by Sir W. Harcourt and Mr. Bright. Sir William criticised the policy of the Government in his well-known bantering style, and compared the Foreign Secretary and Under Secretary to the dreadfully sensitive lady who "did not mind death, but could not bear punching." "I am afraid I cannot undertake to treat these gentlemen in a vein of sublime and decorous wrath; not that they don't deserve that, too; but it is not the most appropriate and effective manner of handling them. Their blunders seem to me to have reached a point which has sunk them below the level of indignation; they are more fitting subjects for commiseration and amusement." Mr. Bright indulged in a political retrospect of the past half century, and claimed that all the measures tending to elevate and ameliorate the condition of the people of this country were due to the Liberals. The policy of the last four or five years would, he said, receive at the next general election the indelible condemnation of the country. Mr. Chamberlain also spoke, congratulating the Liberals in moving in the right direction. On Thursday the Junior Liberal Association held a *soirée*, at which Mr. Bright again spoke, and to-day (Saturday) the borough members are to deliver their annual addresses to their constituents.—On Tuesday there was also a Liberal demonstration at Wakefield, the Marquis of Ripon and Mr. Grant Duff being the chief speakers. Both were of course unsparing in their denunciations of the Government policy.—On the same day Mr. Waddy's success was celebrated by the Liberals of Sheffield at a *soirée*. In a letter from Mr. Mundella it was pointed out that the Conservatives were straining every nerve to renew their lease of power, and, believing that such a result would be full of danger to every class of the community, he urged the Liberals to vote again

for freedom, justice, and right.—Sir Stafford Northcote, speaking last week at a Conservative dinner at Stroud, said that Mr. Gladstone egregiously misrepresented financial topics, and in his last preface to the Scotch speeches evaded the greater part of the Chancellor's own speech at Leeds.—Lord George Hamilton has also been criticising Mr. Gladstone's statements, which are, he says, full of inconsistencies and inaccuracies. He defended the action of the Ministry in regard to Sir Bartle Frere, and held that Mr. Gladstone would not have dared to say to the face of Lord Carnarvon, who had given the instructions, what he had alleged at Edinburgh as to the motives of the Government regarding the war in Zululand.—Sir M. Hicks Beach, speaking at Tewkesbury on Wednesday, said that the Government had matured various measures for consideration the next Session, which they wished to be a real working one. The choice of the county at the next election would be between Conservatism and Radicalism, for the Liberals must practically follow leaders whose theories if adopted would prove fatal to the Constitution and the Empire.

THE CONDITION OF IRELAND.—Political agitation seems to be dying a natural death since the departure of Mr. Parnell, the few land meetings which have been held being thinly attended and destitute of anything like enthusiasm. At the meeting of Home Rulers in Dublin on Tuesday some extravagant speeches were made, The O'Donoghue attempted to force on a kind of physical force resolution, and was reproved by the member for Tipperary. A scene ensued, which led to an adjournment until next day, when the O'Donoghue's resolution in a modified form, expressing sympathy with "the gallant peasantry of the West" was carried. By another resolution it was decided that the party should act independently of Whig or Tory. It is probable that a demonstration will be made on the first night of the sitting of Parliament. Very active measures are being taken by the local authorities to alleviate the distress, and the various Relief Funds continue steadily to increase. The Earl of Cork has obtained a grant of 2,000*l.* from the Church Surplus Fund for improvements on his land near Charleville, and the Earl of Kenmare has applied for one of 13,000*l.* for improvements on his estate near Hospital, Limerick County.

THE UNEMPLOYED OF LONDON.—On Saturday a large number of working men out of employment met in Hyde park, and after some speech-making, in which the depressed condition of the country was attributed to the "gunpowder and glory" administration of Lord Beaconsfield, and grants to the Royal Family were denounced; memorials to the Premier and the Lord Mayor of London, asking them to receive deputations "who would point out a remedy for the existing distress," were adopted. The deputation subsequently went in procession to the Mansion House, where it was courteously received by the Lord Mayor, who however could afford them no general relief. On Monday and Tuesday crowds of the unemployed assembled outside the Mansion House, and some hundreds received relief in the shape of tins of compressed meat, given through the Lord Mayor by the St. Louis Beef Canning Company, preference being given to the married men. On Tuesday about 1,000 unemployed men and boys were given a free tea in the Lecture Hall of the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

THE LATE SIR LOUIS CAVAGNARI was educated at Christ's Hospital, Newgate Street, and his memory is to be perpetuated there by a mural tablet, subscribed for by the present scholars and old Blues. The tablet will bear a medallion likeness of Sir Louis, and a concise history of his brilliant career and valuable services.

MESSRS. WILLIAM LAWRENCE AND SONS, the eminent builders, have just done an action of exceptional generosity. The old firm ceased to exist on the last day of the old year, when the partners, Mr. Alderman W. Lawrence, Sir J. C. Lawrence, Bart., M.P., and Mr. Edwin Lawrence, handed over the entire business to the clerks and managers, placing at the same time a capital of 30,000*l.* at their disposal to enable them to carry on the trade. The artisans in the employ of the late firm received gratuities of from 10*l.* to 20*l.*, varying with their length of service, and some of the oldest workmen have also been granted a pension.

EXTRAORDINARY FATALITY.—A fatal accident of a singular nature took place a few nights ago at the Holte Theatre, Aston, near Birmingham. The stage was lighted by electricity, and when the performance was over Mr. Bruno, a member of the orchestra, happening to lay hold of the connections of the apparatus, received the full shock of the current. He immediately swooned, and although medical aid was at once forthcoming he died in about forty minutes.

THE TAY BRIDGE DISASTER.—Very little has been done at the scene of the catastrophe since we last wrote. The proposed blowing up of the girders by dynamite has been prohibited for the present by the Board of Trade, who are anxious to obtain more exact information as to the positions in which they lie. The search for bodies is still going on, but will be discontinued after this week, unless some new discovery should lead to further endeavours. The other day a clairvoyant lady went out in a yacht, and after being mesmerised said that twenty bodies were lying beneath the girders. Telegraph communication is to be resumed by means of the old cable between Tayport and Haig Craig.

A FATAL COLLIERY EXPLOSION occurred on Wednesday in the Fair Lady Pit at Lycett, North Staffordshire, the gas in the mine catching fire from some unknown cause. Between seventy and eighty men were at work underground at the time, and of these only twelve were brought to the surface alive. The bodies of the dead were in many instances so disfigured by fire as to render identification impossible. It is said that one of the victims, a man named Burgess, was only a few days ago remanded on a charge of having by negligence contributed towards a previous explosion in the same mine.

A FATAL RAILWAY COLLISION took place on Thursday last week at Burscough Junction, near Southport, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire line, in consequence of either a mistake on the part of the pointsman, or some failure of the machinery of the "points." Seven persons were killed, and many others seriously injured. An inquest and a Board of Trade inquiry have been opened, and the pointsman is in custody.

OBITUARY.—Among the deaths announced this week are those of Miss Gladstone, sister of the ex-Premier; Mr. T. Landseer, A.R.A., brother of Sir Edwin, and himself an engraver of great ability; Mr. Frederick Manning, brother of the Cardinal; Mr. John Torr, one of the Conservative members for Liverpool; and Lady Waterlow, wife of Sir Sidney Waterlow, Bart., M.P.



THE engagement of Mr. Charles Wyndham by Mr. Hollingshead and Miss Fanny Josephs has been attended by a revolution in the performances at the OLYMPIC Theatre. Messrs. Rice and Besant's comedy, *Such a Good Man*, has been withdrawn after a brief trial; and with it Mr. Burnand's burlesque, *The Hunchback Back Again*, which was not without merit as a humorous parody, has, for the present at least, suffered the same fate. Of *Brighton*, an adaptation by Mr. Frank Marshall of Mr. Bronson Howard's piece, entitled *Saratoga*, there is now little to be said. The notion of a gentleman

who is so habitually impressionable and profuse of expressions of devotion that he finds himself involved in endless scrapes, besides being the cause of infinite trouble among other attached couples, is not altogether unknown to the stage; but it is handled by Mr. Howard with a light and rapid touch which tends to deprive it of the objectionable features which it assumes in old comedies. Mr. Wyndham has, perhaps, little natural affinity for parts like that of the mercurial hero; his manner does not possess any of the lightness and gay insouciance of Mr. Charles Mathews's inimitable style; and his habitual expression of features is certainly not of the laughing, careless kind. Yet he succeeded in this part at the Criterion as perhaps few other actors could hope to do; chiefly from the vigorous activity and perpetual bustle of his movements and manner, and the desperate earnestness which he contrives to infuse into his efforts to extricate himself from embarrassing positions. Mr. Righton will not, perhaps, console playgoers for the absence of Mr. Hill; he plays the part of Mr. Vanderpump, however, with much humour, though of a less spontaneous kind. Mrs. Leigh's Mrs. Vanderpump could hardly be improved. Other characters are well sustained by Mr. Maclean, Mr. David Fisher, jun., Mr. Penley, Miss Edith Bruce, and Miss Amalia.

Mr. Reece has furnished the OLYMPIC playbill with an introductory piece in the shape of a farcical comedy in two acts, founded on an old French vaudeville, and entitled *My Enemy*. In this clever and amusing trifle Mr. Righton is seen to great advantage in the part of Miserrimus Owen, a gentleman haunted by an unseen and even unknown enemy, whom he finally discovers in the person of an acquaintance whom he has been actively befriending. The piece is extravagant, as it is intended to be; but its fun is genuine and harmless.

Pursuing his plan of successive revivals of his best comedies, Mr. Byron has reproduced his *Cyril's Success* at the FOLLY Theatre, undertaking, for the first time in London, the character of Matthew Pincher, the literary hack. Those who remember the strongly marked manner of the late Mr. John Clarke in this part, when the piece was originally produced at the Globe Theatre eleven or twelve years ago, would find it interesting to observe the difference between this and the author's realisation of his own conception. It is a quieter, and altogether more moderate, performance; yet skilful in indications of character, and peculiarly happy in the neat enunciation of those clever things with which Mr. Byron's more prominent personages are always endowed. Among the best of the other impersonations in the comedy are the Major Treherne of Mr. Billington, the Cyril of Mr. Ward, and the Fred Titeboy of Miss Roland Phillips.

THE IMPERIAL Theatre will henceforth be devoted to day performances, with the exception of occasional benefit and amateur entertainments in the evening. A revival of *As You Like It*, in which Miss Litton is to sustain the part of Rosalind, is among the earliest on the list of these day-time representations.—Mr. Burnand's new comedy, in preparation at the VAUDEVILLE, is entitled *Ourselves*.—The new patriotic drama by MM. Erckmann-Chatrin having been negatived by the French official censors, it seems probable that this piece will first make its appearance in the shape of an English adaptation on our stage. Its French title is *Les Fiancés*. According to the Monday morning article of gossip on "The Theatres" in the *Daily News*, the distinguished authors have privately "expressed themselves not averse from this suggestion, stipulating only that they shall approve of the company of performers, the adaptation, and the adaptor."—From the same authority we learn that the project of building a theatre on the site of Savile House, Leicester Square, is now definitively abandoned, a company having acquired this plot of ground, vacant ever since the fire of 1865, for the purpose of erecting a circular building to be devoted to dioramic views. The famous diorama of the Siege of Paris is to be removed here from its original home in the Champs Elysées.—Mr. Toole is rapidly recovering, and his reappearance at the FOLLY Theatre is announced to take place on Wednesday next.



THE TURF.—If it had not been for the recent legislation of the Jockey Club and Mr. Anderson's Act, we should probably have a number of meetings of the Kingsbury, Streatham, and Bromley class just now, inviting the patronage of the riff-raff of the metropolitan district. Happily we seem likely to be free henceforth and for ever from these Turf excrescences. We can well afford to wait a week or more and let the frost work its iron will, if it will only give way in time for the Kempton Park Meeting on the 5th of next month. The acceptances for the Grand Hurdle Race on the second day have just come to hand, and of the forty handicapped twenty-four have cried content, Bugle March being the top weight at 12 st. 10 lbs., and thus preventing a general raising of the imposts, as was the case in the Croydon and Sandown events. Bacchus has only 3 lbs. less, and will probably appear at the post. Captain Macell has left in Hopbloom and the much talked-of Spendthrift. The shifty Zuccherò, a novice at the game, is in at 10 st. 9 lbs., and the four-year-old Fabius is one of the bottom weights. There are altogether elements for a very interesting race.—Looking into the numerical details of the entries for the chief spring handicaps, it is somewhat remarkable that in most cases the numbers show a slight falling off, though there were never so many thoroughbreds in training as at the present moment. The strangest fact of all is that the Lincolnshire Handicap, to which a "cool thou" is added, has fallen to 84 entries as against 103 last year; while the City and Suburban, to which only 200*l.* is added, obtains five more subscribers than it did in 1878. The Grand National Steeple-chase also shows a falling off, as it only has 57 entrants—the smallest number since the year 1873, when it had 108. Still the race will not lack interest if the four winners of previous years, Liberator, Austerlitz, Shifnal, and Regal, or the majority of them, go to the post.—A stagnant market on the great races of the season is still the order of the day, but recently some dabbles in double events have backed Beaudesert, Prestonpans, and Mack for the Guineas, with Bend Or in each case as their Derby nag to some amount.—The health of Mr. H. Hill has somewhat improved; but Mr. Thomas Dawson, the trainer, one of the "dangerous" brothers, lies in a dangerous state at Middleham.—At Nice the racing ended but feebly, as it began, and the backers of favourites had but a bad time of it, the English division hardly making a score, as for the Grand Prix de Nice they again supported Jupiter Tonans, who ran out of the course. The winner, Maubourguet, was little fancied, and Baron Finot ran second and third with Cap and Blaviette.—Altogether, the pigeon shooting at Monaco was far more exciting than the racing at Nice. Our countrymen fairly held their own, though they did not pull off the Grand Prix du Casino, a very latter gentleman on the previous day took the first prize, a very substantial one, in the Prix d'Ouverture, and Mr. Cholmondeley Pennell was second. On the first day M. A. Orban, a Belgian representative, took the Grande Poule d'Essai, a sort of "trial stakes," second honours falling to Mr. E. R. Day.

COURSING.—The Alcar Club Meeting was hardly productive of the interest anticipated, and had no very great influence on the

Waterloo Market. In the Members' Cup Lord Haddington's Honeywood was withdrawn, but two of his lordship's dogs were in the last six, and his Hubert ran the deciding course with Mr. Stone's Stitch-in-Time, by whom he was beaten. This naturally led to Mr. Stone's nomination being backed for the Waterloo Cup, but throughout the meeting Lord Haddington never lost his premiership in the market at 12 to 1. There can be little doubt that the withdrawn Honeywood is a better animal than Hubert, as is also his lordship's Haidée. Two other nominations, Mr. Carruthers and Sir W. Anstruther, it is said, will probably run animals from his lordship's kennel, and the chances of the trio for the Waterloo trophy must be very rosy.

FOOTBALL.—The third round of the Association Cup is progressing. At Kennington Oval the Clapham Rovers simply smothered the Pilgrims, scoring seven goals to none; and at Birmingham the Home team have had an encounter hardly less disastrous with the Oxonians.—At Huddersfield, in the presence of more than 10,000 spectators, the annual county match between Lancashire and Yorkshire took place on Saturday last under Rugby Rules, to the discomfiture of Yorkshire.—In an Association game Nottingham Forest has beaten Nottinghamshire; and the Scottish Counties, after one of the closest tussles ever seen, have worsted Birmingham.—In the Scottish Association Cup contest, Queen's Park has beaten Dumbarton.

AQUATICS.—There is little news from Oxford and Cambridge, except that the eights have been practising regularly with but slight changes in the crews.—Elliott and Boyd are giving satisfaction to their supporters in their training, both men it is said showing better form in rowing than ever they did in their best days.

SKATING.—If the frost holds a match for the Amateur Championship of England will take place at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, at an early date.—Skaters among the fair sex are wearing as anklets bands of silver or gold, with small bells attached; while some of the fair Camillas that scour the icy plains keep time to their graceful movements with castanets.

FAT PEOPLE

It is difficult to understand why those of our fellow-creatures who have the misfortune to be fat should be so mercilessly ridiculed by their thinner brethren. Some nations look on a considerable *embonpoint* as the last perfection of female beauty; the Circassian maidens are carefully fattened for the Turkish matrimonial market. But the Western nations appear to incline to the Spartan opinion, that there is something almost discreditable in fatness. When Brummel wished to mortify his Royal patron, he spoke of the Prince Regent as "our fat friend."

Fat people seem to be thought fair butts for ridicule. Even accidents, if they occur to these unlucky beings, provoke a laugh. A fat man falling down on a slide excites the delight of street gamins to a degree. Dean Ramsay relates a story of a stout man telling a friend he had slipped down and hurt "the small of his back." "I wonder where *that* is," was the sympathising rejoinder. Fat people never receive sympathy in love affairs. In Kingsley's "Westward Ho," the fat hero, Jack Brimblecombe, protests warmly against this injustice. "Do you suppose fat men haven't got hearts as well as thin ones? Fat can feel as well as lean." We cannot recall the authority, but remember reading somewhere an anecdote of the historian Gibbon proposing to a lady, who rejected him. In his enthusiasm he had rashly gone down on his knees to make the offer, forgetting his size and his gout; but was unable to rise without assistance. The relater of the story loses all sympathy with the disappointment of the rejected suitor in amusement at the idea of his ridiculous position.

Excessive size is a misfortune that receives very little pity, but must be a misfortune nevertheless. The inconvenience of fatness must be extreme. Fat people, however, are, as a rule, wonderfully good-natured and cheerful. They are to be studied at leisure by travellers in omnibuses, these conveyances appearing to possess a great attraction for stout persons, especially in hot weather. The good humour with which six fat people will endure the state of suffocation to which their presence on one side of an omnibus must reduce them all, the jokes they will make at their own expense, the meekness with which they endure sour looks from the rest of the passengers, who seem to think they have no right to be so large, are edifying to witness. "My good madam," we once heard a fat old gentleman say mildly to his next neighbour, a thin spinster, who was evidently annoyed at his engrossing so much room, "I am sincerely sorry to inconvenience you; but I assure you my size is a greater annoyance to me than it can be to you."

Good-nature would appear to be the predominating characteristic of the fat. Irritable, fidgety people wear the flesh off their bones by their restlessness, while their peaceable neighbours gradually grow stouter. Shakespeare expresses the opinion that fat people are harmless and good-natured, when he makes Caesar exclaim:—

Let me have men about me that are fat,
Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o' nights;
Yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
He thinks too much—such men are dangerous.

And to all Casca's representations he rejoins:—
Would he were fatter.

Cesar's mistrust of "that spare Cassius" was not erroneous. There is certainly what may be called a benevolent fatness—a kind of sleekness that is suggestive of an easy conscience, a good digestion, and a comfortable income. Fat people of this description bear about with them an atmosphere of prosperity and content. Beggars in the streets "mark them for their own" with a sagacity seldom disappointed. The arrival of such an old gentleman to see a boy at school raises instant visions of half-crowns in the mind of the juvenile. At weddings and christenings the presents of the fat and kindly are always remarkable. Dickens described his "Brothers Cheeryble," those typical benefactors of the human race, as stout old gentlemen. With the sincerest admiration for these estimable characters, we have, however, always considered their method of carrying on business rather a peculiar one. If it was their usual custom to engage confidential clerks because they took a liking to their countenances in the street (for this was the way in which Nicholas Nickleby became known to them), we fear that in real life they would have found themselves in the position of the man who took none but discharged convicts into his service; and whom Archbishop Whately warned that "he would awake one morning to find himself the only spoon left in the house."

Fat people are not of a suspicious nature, it would seem. Napoleon, himself of small stature, was fond of alluding to the great deeds performed by little men; some fat person might make a list of the good actions done by stout people. Of course there are exceptions to every rule. Henry the Eighth was of an unwieldy size during the wickedest years of his life; and many of the worst of the Roman Emperors were fat men. A man's virtues are not always to be estimated by his weight; but there is certainly a popular prejudice in favour of the good nature of a stout person; and most of us would prefer to ask a kindness of a plump, comfortable-looking stranger than of a lanky one.

We have alluded to the propensity which fat persons have for resting at their size; but perhaps the most extraordinary instance of this occurred in the case of Rowland Taylor, Rector of Hadleigh, one of the Marian martyrs. Nearly his last words in life were a *fat* at his own size. He was burned in 1555, and as he passed through his own churchyard on his way to execution was observed to smile. Being asked what diverted him at so solemn a moment,

he replied, "that as his body was of considerable bulk, he had oftentimes thought how handsomely the worms would meal on him; but now his body should be burned to ashes, and so both he and the worms were deceived." Foxe may well add, "thereupon were the Sheriff and his company greatly astonished at him, as being a man thus to jest at death."

It is only another example of the ruling passion, strong even to the last, like Sir Thomas More's request to be "assisted up the scaffold; coming down he would shift for himself;" or the yet more touching story of Marie Antoinette, who, accidentally stepping on the foot of the executioner as she ascended the steps of the guillotine, turned to him with the instinctive "Pardonnez."

Numberless instances might be recalled of similar cases where the habits of life continue to the latest breath. "Give General Dayrolles a chair," was the last coherent utterance of Lord Chesterfield, polite to the last. Pope has described how Sir Godfrey Kneller, one of the vainest of men, occupied himself up to the time of his death designing his own monument. Haller, the physician, expired in the act of feeling his own pulse. "Tête de l'armée" was the last utterance of Napoleon; and Charles the Second remembered "poor Nelly" on his deathbed. Rousseau, just before he died, requested to be carried to the window "to take a last look at nature." In the old ballad of Robin Hood, the outlaw forbids his men to take vengeance on the treacherous Prioress of Kirkley, to whose hand he owed his death, on the ground that he never

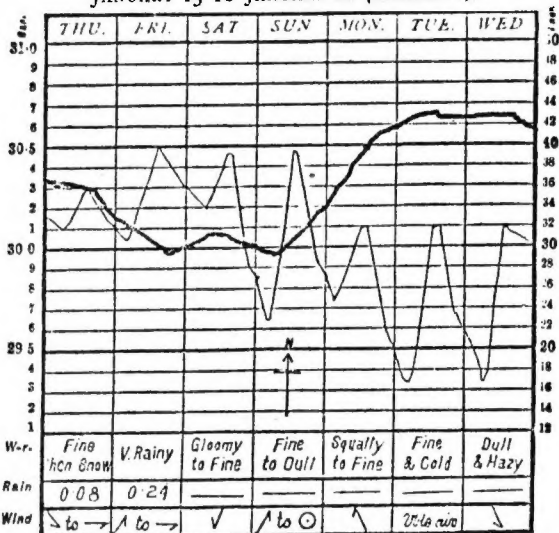
Hurt woman in all my life,
Nor man in her company,

and that as he has lived, so will he die. Rowland Taylor was only an example of a nearly universal rule. C. L.

COOKERY LECTURERS AND FAMILY JARS.—Writers and lecturers on cookery reform should be a little more circumspect in the terms in which they reprobate the waste and extravagance that prevail in the poor man's kitchen. That disaffection and results still more lamentable may arise therefrom was demonstrated in a case that recently came before one of the metropolitan magistrates. A working man was charged with assaulting his wife with a baking-dish. It appeared from the poor woman's statement that her husband had always been kind, and satisfied with her household management, until, some time ago, he happened to read in a newspaper a popular lecture on the preparation of food, and which included a comment on the scandalous and ruinous ignorance that almost invariably characterised the preparation of a poor man's meals, and ever since he had altered altogether in his behaviour towards her. No meals she cooked pleased him. The moment he sat down to dinner or supper he "commenced to growl" and to find fault, declaring that the victuals were spoiled, that he could get nothing fit to eat, and that this incessant grumbling had on the previous Sunday culminated in his upsetting an unsatisfactory piece of beef baked over potatoes, and hitting her on the head with the baking-dish. The man's excuse was that what his wife had said was mainly true; but the fact was, the matter had weighed on his mind since he read the lecture, and he couldn't help thinking with the lecturer—who, of course, knew what he was talking about—that it was a sin and a shame that the wives of working men should waste their husbands' earnings in the way they did. In the end the case was settled by the man's promising to buy his wife a cheap cookery-book, and by her giving her word that she would study and do her best to be guided by it. Thus, barring the blow with the baking-dish, perhaps no harm was done. But who can tell how much of discontent, or how many domestic jars, have been bred from this same source? It is too much the fashion with public demonstrators of the art of preparing a poor man's dinner properly, and at a trifling cost, to abuse and condemn in severest terms the management of the whole community of working-class housewives, as though their defective cookery arose from mere slatternliness and a dislike for a little trouble. But we would like to see how these conjurers of the pot and pan would get on if their culinary conveniences were of the same rude and limited kind as those they so unmeasuredly condemn are compelled to make shift with. The burnt frying-pan; the one gridiron, that has to serve for the grilling of a rasher in the morning and of a "bloater" in the evening; the two or three saucepans; and, worse than all, the wretched little fire-place, most of the heat from which ascends the chimney, down which the smoke comes belching whenever the wind changes, accompanied with cakes of dislodged soot. It of course is very desirable that the wives of working men should be taught how to cook; but, until they are provided with the requisite appliances, it is scarcely fair to treat of their shortcomings as though they were vices, and so sow seeds of discontent in the minds of husbands who, in blissful ignorance, have hitherto eaten with an appetite and thriven on the "disgracefully cooked" meals prepared for them.

WEATHER CHART FOR THE WEEK

JANUARY 15 TO JANUARY 21 (INCLUSIVE).



EXPLANATION.—The thick line shows the variations in the height of the barometer during the past week ending Wednesday midnight. The fine line shows the shade temperature for the same interval, and gives the maximum and minimum readings for each day, with the (approximate) time at which they occurred. The information is furnished to us by the Meteorological Office.

REMARKS.—The period opened with a steadily falling barometer, and very unsettled weather. Snow fell on Thursday evening (15th inst.), and rain nearly all day Friday (16th inst.), but on Saturday (17th inst.) a slight rise in the mercury was accompanied by a marked improvement in the weather, the afternoon of the day being exceedingly fine, with an almost cloudless sky. On Sunday (18th inst.) the barometric rise became more marked, and the weather continued bright, but temperature fell several degrees, the maximum registered being only 32°. Since that time the weather has continued very cold, but generally fair, the minimum temperature read on Tuesday and Wednesday (20th and 21st inst.) were as low as 21° and 22° respectively, the maximum being the same as on Sunday (18th inst.). On Wednesday (22nd inst.) a good deal of fog prevailed. The wind has been light in force all the time, and variable in direction, while on Tuesday and Wednesday (20th and 21st inst.) it sank to almost a calm. The barometer was highest (30.66 inches) on Tuesday (20th inst.); lowest (29.98 inches) on Sunday (18th inst.); range, 0.68 inches. Temperature in the shade was highest (49°) on Friday (16th inst.); lowest (17°) on Tuesday and Wednesday (20th and 21st inst.); range, 32°. Rain or snow fell on two days. Total amount 0.32 inches. Greatest fall in twenty-four hours 0.24 inches, on Friday (16th inst.).



THE "ANGE DÉCOIFFÉ" STYLE is stated by a fashion correspondent to be the latest mode of dressing the hair in Paris.

BANK FRAUDS IN CHINA have not been known for centuries past, thanks to the Celestial custom of cutting off the officials' heads immediately on the failure of a bank.

A WHOLE TOWN—Littleborough-by-Rochdale, covering some seventy-four acres, and with a population numbering nearly 10,000.—has been bought up by a Yorkshire gentleman.

A DUELLING EPIDEMIC has attacked the Berlin University, where encounters take place at least weekly. One duel has just ended fatally, and the living principal and his seconds are in hiding.

IN THE RECENT ECLIPSE OF THE SUN observed from the Santa Lucia Mountain, California, the inter-mercurial planet was observed, but the phenomenon known as Bailey's Beads did not appear.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA proposes to build a library at Teheran on the model of the Paris Corn Market, which greatly took his fancy when he was visiting Europe, and has sent over an engineer to draw out the plans and engage workmen.

THE FIRST FINE ART EXHIBITION EVER HELD IN ALGERIA was opened at Algiers last week, and is stated to contain some very fine pictures amongst the 500 on the walls. The Algiers Museum intends to buy a number of paintings, to render its collection more attractive to the winter visitors.

SOME OLD FORGOTTEN WRITINGS OF LESSING will soon be brought to light by a German paper, the *Hamburg Correspondent*, which, to commemorate its centenary, intends to publish *fac similes* of its first numbers, to which Lessing was a frequent contributor. Some of these numbers were published when the Bonapartist General Davoust was established at Hamburg as Governor-General of the Hanse Towns, and were printed in green ink to suit the weak sight of the General.

A CANADIAN ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS is being planned under the auspices of the Marquis of Lorne, who, the *American Architect* tells us, would nominate the first officers of the Academy, forty in number. There will also be Associates, honorary members, foreign academicians, and honorary retired academicians, while the scheme includes the institution of a National Gallery of Art and the establishment of Schools of Art and Design, and Exhibitions in the principal cities of the Dominion.

A CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL THRIFT SOCIETY will be held at the Mansion House next Tuesday, January 27th, at three o'clock. The Lord Mayor will preside; and there will be papers or speeches by—Professor Leone Levi (on "The Margin for Saving;") Mr. Alderman Wm. McArthur, M.P.; Mr. Blanchard Jerrold (on "Thrift amongst the French Peasantry;") Cardinal Manning; the Rev. W. L. Blackley (on "Practical Education in Thrift;") and Dr. Benjamin W. Richardson.

A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF SKULLS AND SKELETONS is shortly to be added to the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, including some 1,800 specimens of all variations of the human race scattered over the world. They belong to a physician who has been gathering them for over forty years, having himself exhumed from barrows most of the crania and skeletons of the early inhabitants of our own country, and having obtained the majority of the foreign specimens from British travellers.

TALLEYRAND'S MEMOIRS are likely to be brought out this year, according to the *Paris Voltaire*. The thirty years interval between Talleyrand's death and their publication, stipulated by the celebrated statesman, expired fourteen years ago, and a longer delay was decided on, but the recent appearance of Prince Metternich's and Madame de Rémusat's Memoirs have induced the executors to bring the manuscript from London to Paris, and entrust it to M. Andral, former President of the Council of State, who will prepare the memoirs for publication.

ANOTHER DUTCH ARCTIC EXPEDITION is being prepared. The little schooner *Willem Barents*, which has already been twice to the Polar regions, will start in the summer, part of the necessary funds being furnished by a citizen of Amsterdam. Unfortunately, the young commander of the two previous voyages has lately died in India. Regarding Polar explorations, it is probable that the American vessel, *Jeannette*, has a companion during her winter in the Arctic regions in the Transatlantic barque, *Mount Wollaston*, which went North in the autumn with this intention.

THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, which opens on the 1st of October next, will contain 650,000 square feet, of which Europe and America will occupy 400,000. British exhibitors, *Engineering* states, have already applied for 180,000 square feet, while France has applied for 75,000, and intends to send the exhibits in a man of war. Germany has voted 12,000, towards the expenses, and has asked for 65,000 feet of space, Italy following with 42,000 and the United States with 30,000, both the latter countries intending to forward their contributions in Government vessels. Belgium, Austria, Holland, and Switzerland claim the next largest share of space.

THERE IS A FLOWER FAMINE IN PARIS, where, the *Garden* tells us a return of frost after the rapid thaw and heavy floods of last week has caused a great dearth of flowers, and the florists, though their shops are beautiful, as always, with forced lilacs, roses, and lilies of the valley, demand such prices for their wares that ordinary purses must deny themselves a single flower. The price of a fair-sized bouquet of Czar violets has risen to 11 francs, while small bunches are priced at 6 francs! For once in a way it seems as if Covent Garden could profitably send flowers to Paris, rather than, as is usually the case, Paris contribute her violets and flowers from the Mediterranean to brighten our foggy shores.

LONDON MORTALITY further decreased last week, and 1,730 deaths were registered against 1,754 during the previous seven days, a decrease of 24, being 30 below the average, and at the rate of 24.6 per 1,000. These deaths included 4 from small-pox (a decrease of 4), 40 from measles (a decline of 8), 89 from scarlet fever (an increase of 16), 10 from diphtheria (a decline of 1), 114 from whooping-cough (a decrease of 8), 17 from different forms of fever (a decline of 5), and 9 from diarrhoea (a decline of 1). There were 2,595 births registered against 2,570, being 61 below the average. The mean temperature was 33.1 deg., or 5.2 deg. below the average. There were 5.1 hours of registered bright sunshine, the sun being above the horizon during 57.6 hours.

FRUIT TREES IN FRANCE have suffered grievously from the severe weather, and numbers of pear and apple trees in the Valley of the Oise appear to be quite dead, the bark on the inside being perfectly black. The farmers try to console themselves by recalling a similar occurrence in 1837, when the trees were gradually revived by a very hot summer. Everywhere the nurseries and pleasure gardens have been much damaged, the shoots and twigs of vines, plums, and delicate plants are frozen and withered, with their sap apparently blighted; roses, magnolias, and tender laurels are disfigured, and even the stems of old cedars show symptoms of injury. Provincials, however, are no worse off than the Parisians, who will incur a loss of some 140,000*l.* by the damage done during the breaking up of the ice on the Seine.



THE CAPTURE OF SEKUKUNI'S STRONGHOLD—STORMING
THE FIGHTING KOPPIE NOV 28, 1879



AFFAIRS IN THE EAST.—By far the most interesting item of the week is the long statement of Austria's work in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which the Ministry has made when asking for a credit of 800,000*l.* for the expense of the occupation. Austria while restoring peace and order in the provinces has not wrought any radical change in the existing institutions, which were found not to be faulty in themselves, but owing to the way in which they were administered. Where possible, the old *employés* have been retained, but as the great majority were not Bosnians but fortune-hunting Turks from Constantinople, who have returned thither since the Austrian occupation, the employment of Austrian officials has been found absolutely necessary, the natives themselves, save in a few cases, being unfit for official duties, few even among the well-to-do classes being able to read or write. As to the financial administration, the existing taxes were found by no means too heavy, but the mode of collection, by men who farmed the tithes, proved to be the great evil, the collectors choosing their own time to go round, and as the peasants were not allowed to gather in their harvest before the tithe had been estimated, they were compelled to accede to any demands which might be made upon them. The farming system has been abolished, and the collection of tithes now presents no difficulty. Nor, indeed, do the other taxes, as those who happen to have friends at Court are now no longer able to evade payment at the expense of their less favoured countrymen. Although the expense of the occupation last year amounted to 800,000*l.*, the Government hope that the income will provide for the expenditure of 1880. Last year considerable expense was incurred by the failure of the crops, and the maintenance in a great measure of 130,000 repatriated refugees. The administration of the province will for the present remain under the control of the Common Ministry. This report, which from its clearness and completeness has given great satisfaction throughout Austro-Hungary, teaches one great lesson, and amply proves the theory which we have so often advanced, namely, that it is not the Turkish system of government which is bad, but the method by which it is administered, the class of people by whom it is carried out, and the rapacity of the Palace authorities (no wonder, when we learn that the Sultan's household expenses, which include the maintenance of 800 families and 4,000 persons, reach the sum of 2,200,000*l.* yearly!), who really govern the Sultan, and who require enormous sums for procuring small favours. The most perfect administration that the combined ingenuity and experience of all the European Powers could put together would prove a most disastrous failure under such circumstances, and it is evident that true reform in Turkey means a radical change—not in the *konaks* of provincial capitals, but at the Palace of Dolma Bagiché itself.

Politically speaking, there is little from Turkey. The difficulty with Montenegro has not yet been settled, and the Porte is trying to treat for an exchange of part of the Gusinje district ceded to Montenegro for the district of Kucka-Krajina. The difficulty with Sir Henry Layard has now been officially settled, a Note from the Porte, acknowledging with pleasure the resumption of official relations with Great Britain, but nevertheless arguing that Dr. Koeller deserved to have his papers seized, and Ahmed Tewfik the punishment meted out to him, but that "out of regard for England," the former's papers have been restored, and the latter pardoned. Sir Henry Layard, however, is about to protest against the assumption that a foreigner may be arrested provided his Ambassador be informed of the fact within twenty-four hours' afterwards. Another little international difficulty has occurred, this time with Italy. Prince Hassan, the Khedive's brother, arrived last week in an Italian steamer, which was boarded by Hafiz Pasha, the irrepresible Police Minister, who ordered Prince Hassan to return to Brindisi, and, on his refusal, left his men on board to watch him. This was considered an outrage on the Italian flag, and Count Corti remonstrating with the Porte, Hafiz Pasha had to call and apologise to the Italian Ambassador. As for Prince Hassan, he was subsequently invited on shore by the Sultan, but being refused permission to remain, has now left Constantinople.

FRANCE.—Two noteworthy statesmen whose names are inseparably connected with the Franco-Prussian War, have died within a week of one another, the Duc de Gramont, who, as Foreign Minister on that fatal day—July 15th, 1870—was really responsible for the declaration of war, and who read the declaration aloud to the Corps Legislatif; and Jules Favre, who protested against the war at the outset, who demanded and obtained the deposition of Napoleon III., on the receipt of the news of Sedan, and who finally negotiated and settled the terms of the Treaty of Peace of February 1871. The Duc de Gramont was sixty-one years of age at the time of his death. Born of a Royalist family, he was a staunch Legitimist in his early life, receiving his first communion with the Comte de Chambord, with whom he was on intimate terms. In 1846, however, he espoused the Orleanist cause, and in 1851, again changing sides, became a staunch Bonapartist. In 1870 he was undoubtedly the leading spirit of the war party, being probably completely misled by the War Office authorities respecting the military resources of France, which proved so sadly inefficient when brought to the test. Since the fall of the Empire he has lived in retirement. M. Jules Favre has been a staunch Republican throughout, and in 1848 was Ledru Rollin's secretary. On the fall of the Empire he became Foreign Minister, and though, since 1871, he has been most unpopular with his countrymen, he certainly acted well under the most trying circumstances, and there is little doubt that any Minister who signed so necessary, and yet so humiliating a document as the Treaty of Peace of 1871, would become eventually a universally abused scapegoat for his country's misfortunes. The bombastic declaration that France would never give up an inch of territory or a stone of a fortress naturally brought much ridicule upon the man who subsequently signed away Alsace, Lorraine, and Metz la Pucelle; but a far more grave error was his opposition to the disarming of the Paris National Guard. Had this step been taken, the Paris Commune would scarcely have occurred. Since his retirement from office he has taken little part in political affairs. He was seventy years of age.

The Ministerial programme as announced by M. de Freycinet last week is essentially cautious, though very much to the point. "All that the change of the Cabinet means," he declared, "was that France can undertake necessary reforms." Thus the Senate will be asked to vote the Ferry laws, and the magistracy must be reorganised, Customs and Military bills will be presented, reductions made in the Budget, and a new Press law proposed, by which journals would be accorded more liberty, but not absolute impunity. The Government would administer the laws with "moderation, impartiality, and in a truly liberal spirit, and would try to ensure calm and peace to France." There was no noteworthy debate or even discussion over the programme, and for some days the various parties mainly occupied themselves in counting their numbers and in reorganising themselves in readiness for the coming conflict. Thus, a Ministerial party is being formed of part of the Pure and Advanced Left, the more Conservative party of the Left Centre, and the Extreme Radical Left being thus left to shift for themselves. With regard to the other factions, the split in the Bonapartist camp shows little sign of healing, and M. de Cassagnac, the bugler of the party of action, urges in the *Pays* that the time of mourning is over,

and that the moment has arrived for inaugurating the campaign by excited meetings, banquets, speeches, and above all, "the impassioned utterance of its only chief—the Prince." The latter, however, does not agree with M. de Cassagnac, and his organ, the *Ordre*, condemns the appeal as "an incitement to awaken agitation." To this the *Pays* retorts that the Bonapartists must have "fallen low" to "lick the shoes of the Republic." There was little stirring in either the Senate or the Chamber until Tuesday, except that M. Magnin, following M. Léon Say's precedent, has declined to state whether or no he intends to convert the Five per Cent. Rentes, and that General Farre has introduced some of his military reforms, including the repeal of the Army Chaplains Bill, and a proposition to reorganise the Staff system. On Tuesday, however, the long-looked-forward-to measure for reforming the magistracy was introduced by M. Cazon, the Minister of Justice, while M. Ferry brought forward his Primary Education Bill.

In PARIS M. Taine was duly received at the Académie last week, and his eulogy of M. de Loménie, his predecessor, was most animated and picturesque, though he painted the life of the old rustic nobility in an enthusiastic manner which has caused Republican critics to call his opinions reactionary.—There is little other social news. The cold weather has returned. There has been only one dramatic representation, a four-act comedy at the Gymnase, *Le Fils de Cerialie*, by Albert Delpit, written apparently on almost precisely the same lines as M. Mario Uchard's *Fiammina*. The *République Française* has created some discussion by drawing attention to England's action on the West Coast of Africa, and peevishly complaining that "Perfidie Albion" is buying up all the Coast of Guinea, and calling upon the Government to take precautionary steps with regard to the French factories, which are really colonies. In reply to this the *Constitutionnel* remarks that instead of jealously criticising a friendly Power, France had better follow her example, and extend her influence in undeveloped countries, and compares the unsatisfactory state of the existing French colonies to the flourishing condition of those of England, who are able to govern themselves. "Where is the French colony ready to accept a similar situation?" it asks.

GERMANY.—The statement that the Duke of Cumberland was willing to come to an arrangement with the German Government has now been officially contradicted by the *North German Gazette*, which declares positively that no proposals have been or are to be made to the Duke of Cumberland. It practically admits that the King of Denmark has tried to bring his son-in-law "to take up a less repellent attitude," and failed, and declares that conciliatory proposals to the Duke would not be met in the same spirit, as "he is surrounded by too many advisers, whose interests are inseparably connected with the maintenance of his pretensions."—There is little other news, save it appears that Prince Bismarck is determined to form a South Sea Commercial Company, and it is stated that several islands in the South Seas will probably be acquired, and partly colonised by transported criminals.—There is much discussion about the asserted negotiations between Prince Bismarck and the Vatican, which do not appear to be prospering, and much indignation has been expressed with Baden, that Duchy having shown an anxiety to be reconciled with Leo XIII., which is far from agreeable to her big neighbour—Prussia.

A curious onslaught upon the Jewish community has been made by both the Protestant and Ultramontane clergy of Berlin, and the Crown Prince, who has frequently expressed his displeasure at the movement, has written a letter of thanks to Pastor Grüber, who has written a book entitled "Christian and Jew," in which he dwells upon the great responsibility of those who have stirred the Jewish question, and urgently calls for peace.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* has been comparing the debts and expenditure of the various countries of the world in 1880 and 1865 respectively. The total debts of the European States have risen from 2,626,000,000*l.* to 4,324,000,000*l.*, and during that time Germany has more than doubled her expenditure, her financial requirements rising from 31,000,000*l.* to 66,000,000*l.* France and Russia claim the heaviest budgets, the former necessitating 119,000,000*l.*, and the latter 107,000,000*l.*, or 22,000,000*l.* in excess of England. In 1865 Russia only required 51,000,000*l.* With respect to the standing debts, England and Holland are the only countries who have diminished their liabilities, Russia having increased her debt from 208,000,000*l.* to 600,000,000*l.*, while France now ranks before all. The chief cause of all this is undoubtedly the enhanced military expenditure, rendered necessary by the modern system of huge standing armies, and out of 585,000,000*l.*—the total expenditure of Europe—the sum of 160,000,000*l.* is devoted to military purposes. Both in 1865 and 1880 Russia and England stand first in military expenditure, the former with 36,000,000*l.*, and the latter with 4,000,000*l.* less; France comes third with 27,000,000*l.*, and Germany fourth with 21,000,000*l.*

RUSSIA.—It is confidently reported that the Russians have suffered another defeat at the hands of the Turcomans, and that General Lomakin has been compelled to abandon Tchikislar. The Akbar Tekke chief, Noor Verdi Khan, also, is said to have deserted the Russians for the Turcomans, whom he is helping as a kinsman.—The unfriendly criticisms of the foreign Press upon the reported armaments of Russia have elicited warm denials of the truth of the statement, and the *Invalide Russe* declares that, on the contrary, the army is to be reduced by 36,000 men. The *Golos* is glad to hear this, but, in looking at the present condition of Russia, finds much to be alarmed at—"an immense Empire with 80,000,000 inhabitants, a large army, and numerous important institutions, is obliged to turn its attention to an enemy who acts in the dark, and who cannot be reached, though all thought and solicitude are called into play to crush him. No reforms, however necessary, can be discussed, and the great progress which was being made in cultivation and civilisation has been stopped." The *Golos* further regrets the reserve which the Government practises with regard to internal affairs, which provokes the belief abroad that "the country is suffering from a secret and internal illness."—M. Walujeff has received a still greater mark of Imperial confidence, as henceforward all the Ministries, save those of Foreign, War, and Naval affairs, will be put under his superintendence.

UNITED STATES.—The Supreme Court having declared that the Republican Legislature of Maine is the legal Government the Republicans are for the present masters of the situation. They have accordingly elected Mr. Daniel F. Davis as Governor. General Chamberlain, the Commander of the Militia, has recognised him, and has given him possession. The Democrats, or Fusionists, still hold out, and refuse to accept the Court's decision, and holding meetings in another hall, declare that they possess sufficient funds to defray all State expenses for the winter.

Mr. Parnell has concluded his New England lectures, and is going to Washington, where the House of Representatives has voted in favour of a proposition to give up the House to him on February 2, and is also considering a proposition to vote 100,000*l.* towards the Irish Relief Fund. The collections, including that of Mr. Parnell, for the relief of Irish distress, at present amount to 90,000*l.*, and it is expected that the sum of 250,000*l.* will shortly be reached.

Mr. James Russell Lowell, the well-known poet, and at present United States Minister to Spain, is to be the new Minister to Great Britain.

MISCELLANEOUS.—In HOLLAND there have been serious inundations, and at one time it was feared that Noorde Lekolyk would burst, and the district between Rotterdam and Amsterdam laid under water. The dyke on the Meuse has burst, and between Oyen

and Teeffelen railway and road communications have been interrupted. At Bois le Duc the main streets have been flooded, but the waters are now falling.—More Ministerial crises in SPAIN, where Señor Canovas del Castillo has once more assumed the Premiership.—In ITALY the contract for the exchange of the recent site of the English church outside the Porta del Popolo for part of the ex-convent of Gesù Maria, at a corner of the Vicolo Gesù Maria and the Babuino, has at last been signed after two years' negotiations. The Pope has been indisposed, owing to the singularly cold weather.—In JAPAN a fire at Tokio has destroyed 12,000 houses, and rendered 40,000 people homeless.—The recent epidemic of cholera also carried off 89,000 persons.—From the SAMOAN ISLANDS, where Prince Bismarck proposes to establish a German colony, we hear that King Malietoa has at length been universally acknowledged Sovereign, and England, the United States, and Germany have agreed to recognise him and to support his authority.



THE Queen is now alone at Osborne with the Princess Beatrice, after having entertained several visitors during the week. Princess Frederica of Hanover, who had been spending some days with Her Majesty, left on Saturday, Prince Leopold going with her to Portsmouth in the *Alberta*, and subsequently returning to Osborne. Colonel the Hon. F. Stanley and Canon Farrar arrived later in the day and dined with the Queen, the Canon performing Divine Service before Her Majesty, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold next morning. After the service the Queen gave audience to Colonel Stanley, who afterwards left Osborne. On Monday Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and Admiral Ryder arrived and dined with Her Majesty, the Ladies Waterpark and Ponsonby, the Hon. M. Lascelles, Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Captain Edwards also joining the Royal party. Prince Leopold left for London on Tuesday.—The Court has been in mourning this week for the Duke Frederic of Schleswig-Holstein Sonderburg Augustenburg, who was the Queen's cousin and also her nephew-in-law, having married Her Majesty's niece, the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, while he was Prince Christian's elder brother. The mourning will be left off to-morrow (Sunday).

The Prince of Wales on Saturday, with the Princess Louise, dined with the Duke of Cambridge, and subsequently the Prince presided at a special Grand Lodge of English Freemasons at the Freemasons' Hall, to invest Lieutenant-Colonel Clerke with the office of Grand Secretary. The Prince accompanied Princess Louise to the Globe Theatre on Monday night, and next day was joined at Marlborough House by the Princess of Wales, who had been at Sandringham with her daughters. The Prince watched the skating at Prince's in the afternoon, and in the evening went with the Princess to a party given by Sir Coutts and Lady Lindsay at the Grosvenor Gallery. On Wednesday the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Louise, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, dined with the Prince and Princess of Wales, and in the evening the whole party went to the Court Theatre. On Thursday the Prince and the Duke of Edinburgh were to accompany the Princess Louise to Liverpool to see her off on board the *Sarmatian*, which starts for Canada the same day. The Princess wishes to avoid any formal reception at Liverpool, while the Prince of Wales returns to London at night.

The Duke of Edinburgh has returned to England from Cannes, and will stay at Liverpool to inspect the Naval Artillery Volunteers to-day (Saturday). Next month he will inspect the London Brigade of the Royal Naval Volunteers. The Duchess continues at Cannes with her mother, and paid a visit to Nice on Tuesday. The Empress of Russia is somewhat better, so that her son, the Grand Duke Paul, has been able to go to Paris, while Her Majesty proposes leaving Cannes next Tuesday, the Duchess accompanying her to St. Petersburg, and remaining until the Empress's health is more satisfactory. The Duchess will leave on Sunday for Paris, where she will meet her husband before going to Russia.—The Princess Louise stood sponsor for proxy on Tuesday to the son and heir of Sir F. Seymour, Master of Ceremonies to the Queen, the child being named Albert Victor Francis.—The Duke of Connaught will preside at the sixty-sixth anniversary dinner of the Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, on April 21st.—Prince Leopold has promised to lay the foundation stone of the new High School at Oxford, in the first week of April.

The Queen of Italy is officially announced to be much better, the nervous symptoms having diminished, while her appetite and strength have increased. Her Majesty has resumed her usual walks in Rome, but was not well enough to go to the ball at the British Embassy on Monday night, at which King Humbert was present.—Prince Christian has gone to Germany to attend his brother's funeral.



A BISHOP'S WEDDING.—The marriage of the Right Rev. Dr. James Fraser, Bishop of Manchester, and Miss Duncan, of Bath, took place on Thursday, last week, at St. Peter's Church, Onslow Gardens; the ceremony being performed by the Dean of Westminster, assisted by the Revs. N. J. Devereux and J. F. Downes. Dean Stanley substituted, for the usual exhortation at the close of the service, a short address, in which he spoke of Christian Matrimony as not only the blending of two souls for mutual society and comfort, sympathy and support, but a new starting-point in life for a more holy and more consistent walk before God. Dr. Fraser, who with his bride is spending the honeymoon at Torquay, wrote, on the day before his marriage, to the District Provident Society of Manchester and the local branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, enclosing, in the one case, a cheque for 250*l.*, and the other one for 50*l.*, "to promote the comfort of others in the midst of whom I live, and who are less happily circumstanced than myself." The *Manchester Courier* says:—"Mrs. Fraser is the only daughter and heiress of the late Mr. John Shute Duncan, LL.D., of Oxford, who died while she was a girl in 1844; and her mother, after a long illness, expired in November last at the age of eighty-seven. The bride has continued to live at Westfield Lodge since the death of Mrs. Duncan, and blessed of ample means she, like her father, has ever evinced much interest in local charitable institutions, and in the proceedings of societies of a benevolent and religious character, to which she contributed liberally. An ardent member of the Church of England, she has taken great interest in Church work, in the furtherance of which she will now have an extended sphere of labour."

THE CENTENARY OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—On Tuesday a deputation representing the various Sunday School organisations waited on the Lord Mayor to request him to preside at the inaugural meeting of the International Conference, which is to form one of the

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distinguishing features of the Centenary celebration in June next, and to grant the use of the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House for the meeting. His Lordship expressed deep sympathy with the movement, and said that he would gladly let them have the hall instead of the Egyptian Hall if they thought they could fill it.

A RELIGIOUS CENSUS.—It is rumoured that Mr. Cross contemplates including in the next census a return of the religious denominations to which people belong.

THE BISHOPRIC OF JERUSALEM.—The Right Rev. Dr. Pridley, Bishop of Jerusalem, sailed from Southampton on Thursday in the *Gwalior* steamer for Port Said, whence he will proceed to Jaffa, to assume his office in the diocese of Jerusalem, which embraces Syria, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Abyssinia, and Asia Minor. The Bishop is accompanied by Mrs. Barclay and family. The Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal, declined the application for a coat-of-arms for the seal of the Queen's College of Arms, alleges that there is already a Bishop of Jerusalem, and that he cannot therefore grant arms to the Queen's Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem.

DR. COLENSO AND THE PROPAGATION SOCIETY.—It will be remembered that a short time ago a Mr. Colley left England for South Africa with the avowed intention of acting as Dean and Archdeacon of Natal, under Dr. Colenso, alleging that he had received the sanction of the Primate and the Bishops of Worcester and Exeter. He has since proposed to unite with the Dean of Grahamstown, who is under excommunication. On Friday last, at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the matter was made the subject of a long and animated debate, and although the Bishop of Capetown had written home advising that no action should be taken till the Archdeacon of Canterbury had considered all the facts, a resolution was passed solemnly reaffirming the resolutions by which the Society ceased to recognise the Episcopal authority of Dr. Colenso, and recording its firm determination to uphold and maintain, so far as lay in its power, the sole Episcopal authority of Bishop Macrorie within the colony of Natal, as committed to him by the Church in South Africa. The Rev. Berdmore Compton moved an amendment substantially reasserting in detail all the steps which had been taken by the Society; and Archdeacon Denison had given a notice of a motion practically amounting to a censure on the Archbishop and the two Bishops named; which, however, was not moved, he being absent through illness. During the debate Dean Stanley passed a glowing eulogium on Bishop Colenso, remarking that his translation of the Scriptures and his sympathy with the natives would cause his name to outlive that of many of his critics.

THE MACKONCHIE CASE is, it appears, to be gone through all over again, Lord Penzance having granted a citation in a new suit instituted by Mr. Martin with the object of obtaining a decree of "deprivation." It is extremely difficult to understand why this case should have been chosen in preference to continuing the proceedings under the old suit, for, as Lord Penzance himself remarked in Court, "where is such a system of litigation to end? Any decree that the Court may make in the fresh suit will probably meet with as much obedience and no more than that which has been paid to the existing decree, and this will lay the foundation of another suit, and so on *ad infinitum*." If Mr. Martin was prepared to drop the proceedings against Mr. Mackonachie altogether, there would be nothing to be said; this Court has no interest in their continuance or concern in their pursuit. But he does not so act. He abandons one suit only to commence another, and this looks like a frivolous abuse of its process." He, however, went on to say that upon the whole he thought that the suit being instituted to obtain something more than a decree of suspension, and probably also a decree of deprivation, was sufficient to exonerate the promoter from such a charge; and therefore the citation would be issued.

A MIRACULOUS SHRINE IN IRELAND.—The *Tuam News* says that at the village of Knock, near Claremorris, County Galway, a number of miraculous visitations have recently taken place. In August last some persons passing the chapel saw the sacristy wall brightly illuminated, and the figures of the Virgin, St. Joseph, and St. John clearly depicted upon it, the figures remaining distinctly visible for nearly three hours. On New Year's Day, just after midnight Mass had been held, the Virgin appeared a second time; and on the Eve of the Epiphany a bright light was again seen on the chapel wall by a large number of persons from 11 P.M. until 2 A.M. These miraculous appearances have been followed by numerous cures. Persons afflicted by diseases have torn the cement from the chapel wall, thereby receiving instantaneous relief; and on the 6th inst. two young girls, who had been to the Dublin physicians to no purpose, recovered their sight by repairing to the spot where the Virgin appeared.

THE OUTRAGE IN A CHURCH.—On Sunday last a pastoral letter from Cardinal Manning was read in all the churches of his diocese, calling upon the faithful to make a solemn act of reparation for the "outrage to the Person of our Divine Lord and Redeemer," committed at the altar of the Italian Church, Hatton Garden. The prescribed prayers and ceremonies, adopted without exception, and a "plenary indulgence" was granted to those who complied with certain conditions. The Italian Church itself was densely crowded, at all the services, and, after the conclusion of the high mass, a very large number of the people remained far into the evening, watching and praying before the high altar, on which was the exposition of the sacrament. The man Schossa has been committed for trial.

Dr. Presy was so greatly shocked on receiving the news of the sudden death of his only son a few days ago, that he is now lying seriously ill. He is eighty years old.



MR. CARL ROSA'S COMPANY.—The promise not kept by Mr. Rosa, to bring out an Italian version of Herrman Goetz's comic opera, *Wahlgeldigen Zähmung*, has been duly kept (as is his custom) by Mr. Carl Rosa, who, under the title of *the Taming of the Shrew*, has given us an English in lieu of an Italian version, from the pen of the Rev. J. Troutbeck. Such a work as this is not to be cursorily dismissed after a single hearing, but satisfaction may be expressed without further preamble at the cordial reception it obtained on Tuesday night from the audience at Her Majesty's Theatre. This was a really good sign, the music of Goetz being to mere *captandum* semi-improvisation, but seriously and considered from beginning to end. Goetz, in fact, was not by any means an ordinary worker (his orchestral Symphony in F is a good proof of that); and, judging by this one example of his power, we are disposed to think that his natural inclination, if lived, would have been emphatically directed to the music. It is evident that his model is Mozart—greatest of all comic composers, as *Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* suffice to prove, and, in certain quarters has been absurdly maintained, Wagner, with whom Goetz has absolutely nothing in common. Take, for example, the *finale* to the third act of the *Taming*

of the *Shrew*, and we find a piece of elaborate concerted music, which under no imaginable circumstances Wagner could have written, any more than he could have written many other passages in the opera of which natural fluency and continuously flowing melody are the prevalent characteristics. Wagner, his disciples insist, is polyphonic no less than significantly dramatic—that may be, but he is polyphonic in a way wholly different from that of Mozart, and let it be added, from that of Goetz. These matters may, however, be discussed on other occasions. For the present we can only record in a few brief sentences the deep impression evidently made upon appreciative hearers by a work with which they had been wholly unfamiliar, conceived and carried out in a style to which they had hitherto been unaccustomed. The plot of the libretto by Herr J. V. Widman, and what use has been made in it of Shakespeare's famous play, being already known to readers of *The Graphic*, need not be dwelt upon in detail. Enough that it is cleverly built up for musical purposes, and enables the composer to make his score more and more interesting as it progresses towards the climax. The taming of a shrew may be regarded as a light matter for the subject of a play, but Shakespeare, his superabundant humour notwithstanding, has made it the vehicle of a great social lesson, which Goetz, with the liberty of rejecting all that did not suit the object immediately in view, has, it must be admitted, idealised—by the agency of music—the great idealising medium after all. The *Taming of the Shrew* is now nearly six years of age, having been originally produced at Mannheim, on the 11th October, 1874, since which it has made the tour of Germany with unvarying success. In December, 1876, it was given at Berlin, Miss Minnie Hauk being the Katherine. Mr. Carl Rosa, who has been playing the opera frequently during his recent provincial tour, profits naturally by the experience thus obtained, presenting it at Her Majesty's Theatre with a cast, one important exception allowed for, almost identical with that of the provinces. This in a great measure accounts for the very excellent performance, under Signor Randegger, on Tuesday night, a performance indeed which, the difficulty of a great deal of the music taken into consideration, left very little to desire. The exception referred to was in the leading part, the Berlin Katharine being substituted for the English one. We can scarcely imagine a more thoroughly efficient realisation of the character than that brought before us by the popular American artist. Miss Hauk's Katharine is at once Shakespeare's Katharine and the Katharine of Herrman Goetz, the dramatic and vocal requirements for its adequate embodiment being alike easily at her command—to say more than which would be superfluous. That her new assumption is destined to stand side by side with her Carmen there can, we think be little doubt—another sign of the versatility to which her Elsa and her Mignon had already borne convincing testimony. Mr. Rosa's Petruchio is Mr. Walter Bolton, who was entrusted with the same responsible task, when two years ago Herr Carl Meyer, with but scant recognition, gave a few representations of the opera at Drury Lane Theatre. Since then Mr. Bolton must have carefully studied the music—so carefully as to account for a performance which may now in most respects challenge criticism. A more prepossessing Bianca than Miss Georgina Burns could not well be hoped for. She looks the character charmingly and sings the music well. M. F. C. Packard is a thoroughly competent Lucentio; and the subordinate parts are effectively sustained by Messrs. Snazelle (Baptista), L. Crotty (Hortensio), C. Lyall (a tailor of tailors), &c. The singing of the chorus was uniformly good, and the orchestra excellent from first to last. With a slight acceleration of some of the *tempi* (in the first act especially), the whole would go off with the required spirit of animation; on this point, however, we feel sure that Signor Randegger is just the man to set everything right. The getting up of *The Taming of the Shrew* does not necessarily entail any considerable expense; but whatever had to be done was done effectively, and the first performance of Goetz's opera may be chronicled as a great and well merited success. It was repeated on Thursday night.

THE NORWICH GATE HOUSE CHOIR.—A new society has been established at Norwich for the practice of vocal music of the better class, under the direction of Mr. Kingston Rudd, a local musician of repute. The Norwich Gate House Choir (such is its title) numbers some seventy singers, all proved competent. For the exhibition of their progress public performances, from which instrumental chamber music is not excluded, will be held from time to time. The first of these was given but recently, with marked success. All such movements in our country towns and cities deserve encouragement, as tending decidedly to good; and if the society advances, as is only reasonable to expect, under the careful guidance of Mr. Rudd, it may eventually become no despicable adjunct to the choral efficiency of the Norfolk and Norwich Triennial Festivals.

POPULAR CONCERTS.—At the concert on Saturday, St. James's Hall was crowded in every part. The posthumous quartet of Mendelssohn was repeated, and the pianist was Dr. Hans von Bülow—facts quite enough to account for the unusual excitement. Dr. von Bülow selected for his solo the sixth and last of Bach's *Suites Anglaises*, joining Madame Neruda in Schubert's B minor Rondo; and the same lady, with Signor Piatti, in Beethoven's great B flat Trio. He was in fine play, and created the usual strong impression. The vocalist was Miss Annie Marriott.

LONDON BALLAD CONCERTS.—Wednesday evening was chiefly devoted to Irish songs, among which, "Silent, O Moyle," by Mr. Edward Lloyd; "The Legacy," by Mr. Santley; and "Terence's Farewell," by Miss Mary Davies, were noticeable for the excellence with which they were rendered. Three of the new songs on which we commented last week were repeated amid great applause. Madame Mary Cummings won a deserved encore by her admirable singing of Claribel's "Children's Voices;" and "The Chough and the Crow," sung by the London Vocal Union and Mr. Stedman's Boy Choir, was a complete success. The boy who sang the first solo has a charming voice. Pity that such "a thing of beauty" will not be "a joy" for more than a few brief months. And, finally, we must compliment Mr. Sidney Naylor, that renowned accompanist, for his attractive pianoforte solos on themes from Pauer and Wehli.

WAGNERS.—It is said that Madame Arabella Goddard intends retiring from the public arena, and devoting herself henceforth exclusively to tuition in classes. If this be true the art of music will be the loser by an accomplished performer, but the gainer by no less accomplished a preceptor. Dr. Hans von Bülow, according to the *Bayreuther Blätter*, contributed last year, by the proceeds of his concert-giving in various European cities, no less a sum than 16,817 marks (840l. 17s.) to the "Patrons-Fund." The fund was instituted to aid the great scheme for propagating the Wagnerian *cultus* in the small Franconian town where Wagner has built for himself a temple on an eminence adjacent, whence, with the aid of an opera-glass (or a "drama"-glass), he can watch the progress of the Bayreuth aborigines—who, by the way, did little or nothing for him, though a great deal for themselves, during the memorable representations of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in 1876.—Bizet's *Carmen* has found a home even in the small (once wealthy and populous) city of Bruges, where it is cordially welcomed.—Anton Rubinstein is at St. Petersburg, superintending the rehearsals of his Muscovite opera, *Kalaschnikoff*, the libretto of which is founded upon one of the poems of Puschkin.—We have it on the authority of the Milan *Trovatore* that Verdi is actually composing an opera to be called *Otello*, the book, founded on Shakespeare's *Moor of Venice*, being supplied by Arrigo Bortolotti, composer of *Mefistofele*, who, like Wagner, writes his own librettos.—The concert got up in Madrid

by the French barytone, M. Lasalle, for the poor of Paris produced upwards of 6,000 francs.—Madame Marimon has had great success at Boston (U.S.), with the parts already played in New York. A new Art-journal, *The Musical Herald*, has been established at Boston.—A Bulgarian theatre has been opened at Sofia.—The libretto of the new opera, *Venise*, which M. Gevaert is composing for Brussels, is furnished by M. Sardou. The eminent Belgian musician has, if we are well informed, reason to be thankful for such co-operation.—Madame Carlotta Patti, the vocalist (elder sister of Adelina) has brought an action for libel against the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.—Joseph Joachim, by his magnificent violin-playing, is fairly turning the heads of the Milanese public. He has already given two concerts.—At Vienna just now Adelina Patti is the town talk. The gifted songstress has been received with more enthusiasm than ever.—Abbate Liszt has been playing at the concert organised by Cardinal Hohenlohe, at Villa d'Este, for the benefit of the poor at Tivoli.—The recently discovered "Coronation Mass" of the French composer, Etienne Méhul, contemporary, friend, and rival of Cherubini, is about to be published in Paris. A great deal more of Méhul's music deserves revival. He was indisputably (although the Emperor Napoleon 1st did not like him) one of the real men of his time.—Mozart's operas are (as in Vienna recently) being performed one after the other, at Hamburg, and (as in Vienna) with complete success.



THE TELEPHONE IN CHANCERY.—Legal proceedings have been commenced by the Attorney-General on behalf of the Post Office authorities against the "Telephone Company (Limited)" and the "Edison Telegraph Company," with the object of restraining them from using telegraph wires for the transmission of their messages, it being contended that such use is an infringement of the rights purchased by the Government when it bought up the business of the telegraph companies some years ago. It is said that should judgment go in favour of the Government no attempt will be made to stop communication by telephone, but that the Post Office will either impose a royalty on every message sent, or buy up the patents and work the business in conjunction with the present telegraph system.

THE EVELYN ESTATES.—In the Chancery Division on Tuesday Mr. Justice Fry had before him an action brought by Mr. William John Evelyn, a descendant of the author of the Evelyn Memoirs, to remove Mr. Liardet from the trusteeship of the Rathbone Place property, and to restrain him from making statements founded on information he had obtained while acting as plaintiff's confidential agent, impugning Mr. Evelyn's title to the Deptford, Clare, and Wooton estates, on the ground that his father was illegitimate, statements which were alleged to be entirely unfounded, being deduced from an erroneous view of certain documents. It was stated that another action was pending respecting the ownership of the property, in which Lady Evelyn, the widow of Sir Hugh Evelyn, is the plaintiff, and on the suggestion of Mr. Justice Fry it was agreed that the present suit should be postponed until Lady Evelyn's had been disposed of; it being understood that Mr. Liardet should resign his trusteeship, and his successor be appointed by Judge in Chambers.

DR. MILLAR AND THE "ECHO."—Dr. Millar's renewed attempt to prosecute the proprietor of the *Echo* for publishing "a false and malicious libel" concerning him has proved abortive, Mr. Flowers dismissing the summons with the remark that it would be childish to commit for trial on such frivolous pretences, when it was notorious that far more offensive expressions were applied daily to such men as Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Gladstone, probably without disturbing their composure for a moment. Dr. Millar continued to speak, declaring that he would appeal, until the magistrate left the Court.

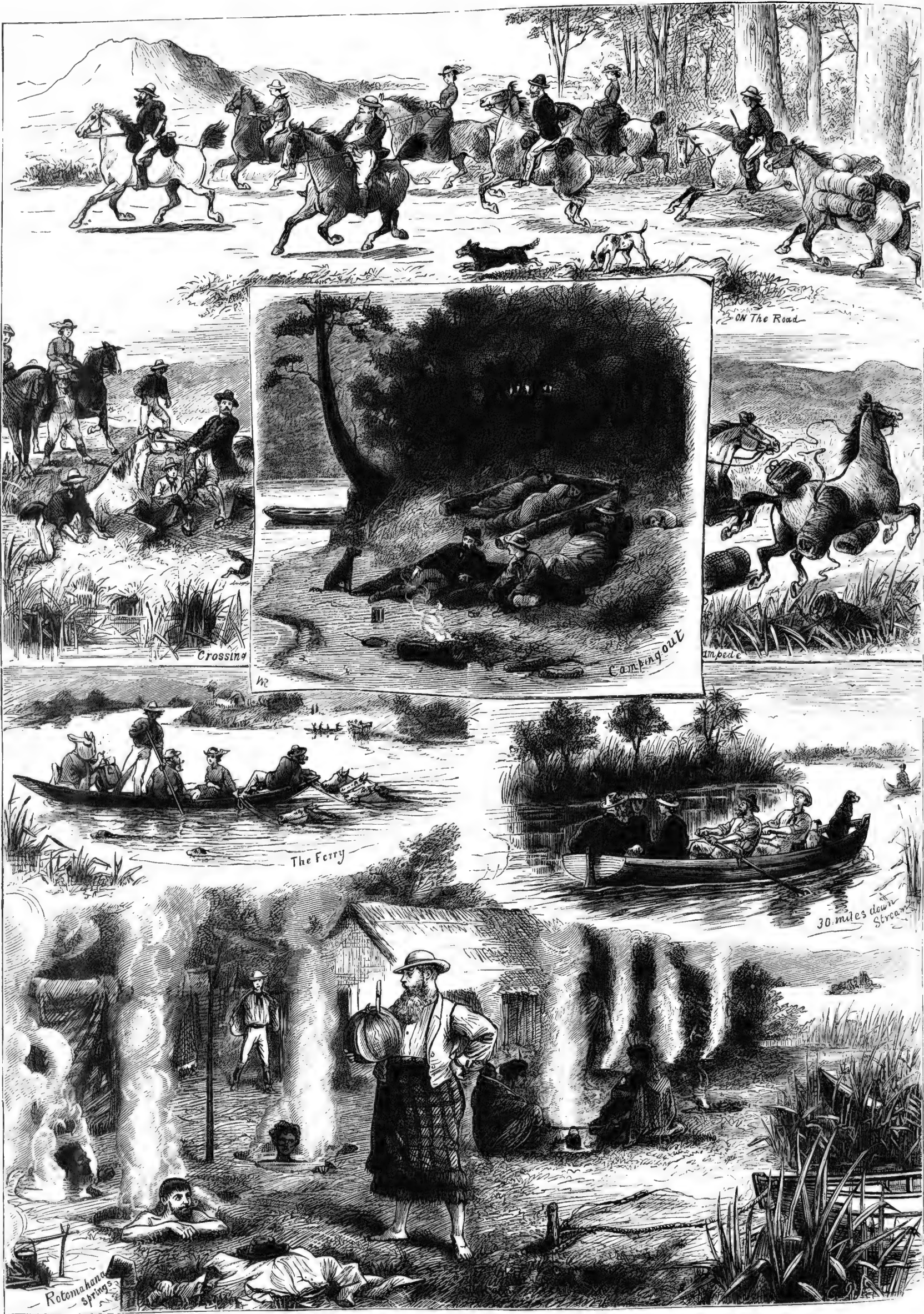
JUVENILE SWINDLERS.—At Brighton two girls aged fourteen, said to be respectably connected, have been committed for trial for fraudulently obtaining money from a drapery firm in the town. Learning from one of their street playmates the name of the laundress employed by the firm, they both went to the establishment, and in her name demanded 5s. or 10s. on account, and the unsuspecting cashier actually handed them the whole of the sum owing—namely, 17. 16s.—for which they coolly gave a receipt, the fraud remaining undiscovered until the laundress herself applied for payment.

CRIMES OF VIOLENCE.—On Friday last a man named John Freeman, residing in Marlborough Street, Dublin, was attacked by two or three men, who shot him in two places, and stabbed him several times. He is now lying in a very precarious state. His deposition throws little light upon the crime, as, although he gives a detailed account of the outrage, he is unable to identify his assailants. It is, however, supposed that he was mistaken for another man, named Dennis Gillispie, who some time ago acted the part of informer against the Fenians, and who is now in America, and a man named James Carroll is now in custody on suspicion. A constable, who saw Freeman staggering, heard a woman call out, "Carroll did it;" and a young woman, niece of Gillispie, says that on the evening of the assault Carroll, who lives a few doors off, said to her, "Take care of your uncle; I am going to take the life of Denny Gillispie, the informer."—No clue has yet been obtained of the Harpurhey murderer, the only result of the publication of the *fac simile* of the "decoy letter" being a flood of specimens of calligraphy which the senders imagine resemble it. The *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* publishes a letter from "One who can give Evidence," who says he could point out the murderer; but, having in his youth been guilty of an act of folly (not criminal), he will not come forward until the practice of raking up and exposing witnesses' private life is done away with.—At Hereford three men have been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the murder and robbery of a man named Williams, whose body has been found in the river Wye, in a condition which betokens strangulation before immersion. A publican, at whose house the supposed murderers were subsequently seen, is also in custody charged with feloniously receiving the watch stolen from the victim.—A man named James Phillips, alias Wells, who has just served six months' imprisonment for theft, was re-arrested, immediately on his release on Monday, and charged on his own confession with the murder of Mrs. Samuels at Burton Crescent in December, 1878. His statement is that the crime was committed by himself and another man, who entered the house with a skeleton key with the object of robbing it.

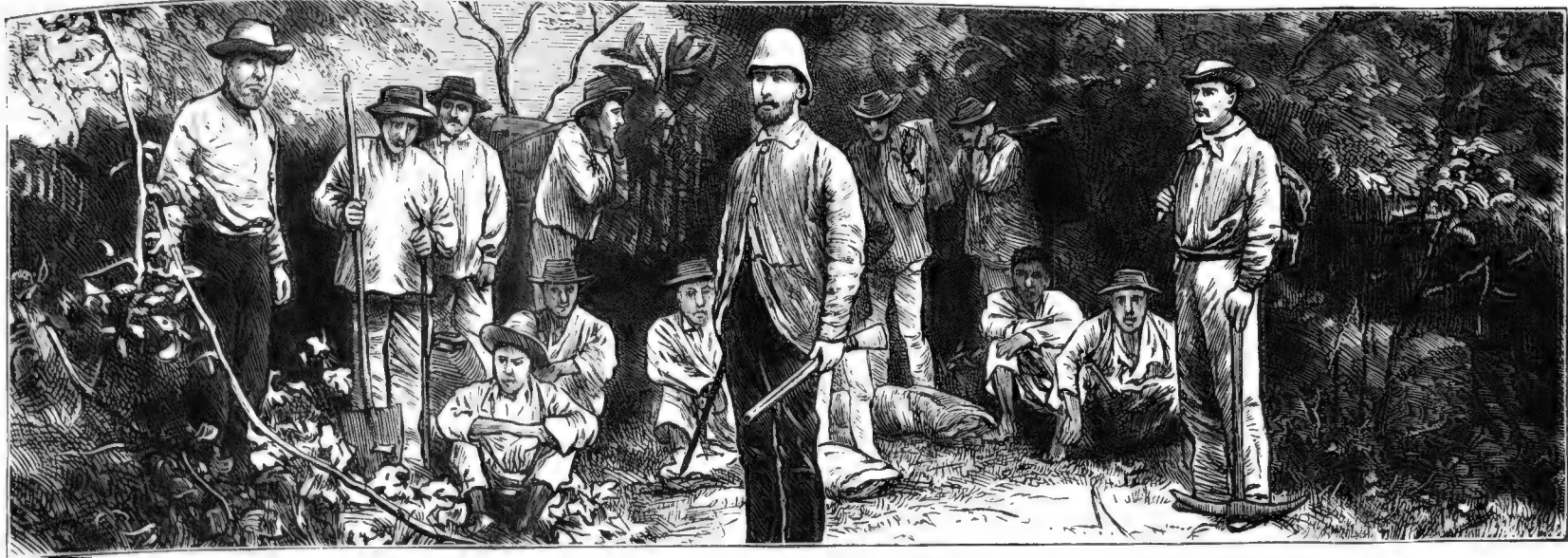
THE EDISON ELECTRIC LIGHTS IN MENLO PARK, says a correspondent of *The Times*, are still burning to the extent of about eighty lamps. Mr. Edison, finding that defective vacuums have developed in a considerable percentage of the lamps, has been experimenting to improve the mechanical construction of the glass globe containing the light, so as to ensure a permanent vacuum, and is able, it is said, to overcome the difficulty. Meanwhile the manufacture of additional lamps has been delayed, and no arrangements have been made practically to use the light in New York.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL ART EXHIBITION, which is to take place in London during May and June, will be held in a series of

(Continued on page 102.)



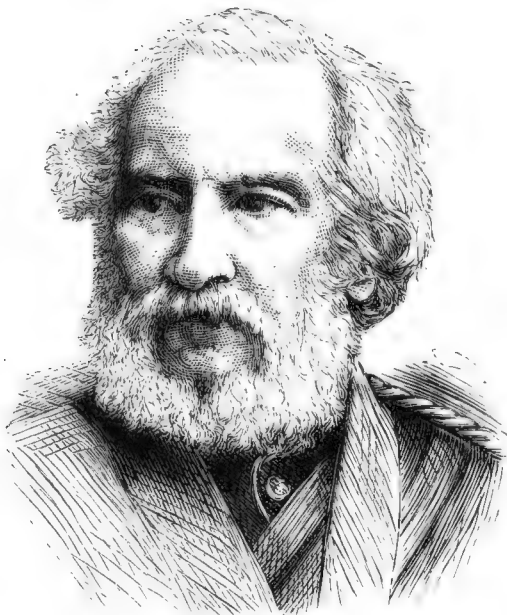
A VISIT TO THE HOT LAKES OF NEW ZEALAND



BRITISH HONDURAS — MR. HENRY FOWLER, COLONIAL SECRETARY, AND HIS EXPLORING PARTY



MR. SERJEANT PARRY
Died Jan. 10, aged 63



GENERAL SIR JOHN LOW, K.C.B., G.C.S.I.
Died Jan. 10, aged 91



LIEUT. H. H. FORBES (44TH BENGAL NATIVE INFANTRY)
Died Dec. 1, 1879, from Wounds received in Action against the Nagas, Nov. 22, aged 21



THE EGYPTO-ABYSSINIAN DISPUTE — THE PORT OF MASSOWAH
Taken possession of by Egypt in 1877, and now re-claimed by the Abyssinians, to whom it had belonged for 300 years.

ARTHUR LOCKER

THE DISTRESS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND

"DURING my journey to the West of Ireland," says our special artist, "I was confronted by signs of great destitution caused by the failure of the crops, a destitution in many cases actual and in others not remotely prospective. I met everywhere extreme courtesy from all classes, especially from the clergy, and was afforded means of seeing and judging for myself of the real condition of the people."

"At Leenane, at the head of Killery Bay, in Connemara, and at the neighbouring mountain village of Aaslegh, there is at all times extreme poverty, but at present it is much aggravated. The men here have in the summer months a means of picking up a little money by acting as boatmen and fishermen to the holiday-makers visiting the Western Highlands, but last season 'everything failed on the poor man.' The long continued wet kept the tourists at home. The year's stock of potatoes, including those which were to be reserved for seed, are all eaten. There is no credit to be obtained for meal, so 'stirabout' is not attainable."

"At Letterfrack and the district surrounding Mr. Mitchell Henry's residence at Kylemore, the state of affairs was somewhat better, owing to the labour afforded by Mr. Henry's building, reclaiming, and roadmaking operations. Great poverty was, however, very evident."

"At Clifden concern sits on every face. For some miles around the town, the peasantry are on the verge of starvation. The pawn offices are filled with every sort of moveable that can be pledged. One pawnbroker assured me he had no less than two hundred beds and blankets in his keeping. Poor women are to be seen at day-break, sitting outside the pawn office doors, who have walked five or six Irish miles, from the islands and wild outlying districts, leaving helpless little children at home, in order to pledge their beds and clothing for food."

"The overworked clergy are besieged almost night and day, and their funds are quite exhausted. Visiting one of them the other evening, I found the passage and stairs crowded with women imploring help. I found families living in what appeared to be heaps of rubbish, but which turned out to be mere coverings from the weather, into which the inhabitants had to crawl. The interior height could not be more than two feet six inches; the sea washing up to the small hole which served for an entrance."

"Another cabin I saw upon a hill side, placed upon swampy ground in which one sunk to the boot-tops in water. These poor people had neither food nor money to buy it. Men and children are seen almost naked, and are confined to their cabins on that account. The cry is for employment, but there seems to be a very vague idea as to what form it shall take, and unless some help is rendered soon the scenes of 1846 will be repeated."

"The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Clifden, would I am sure, carefully and judiciously distribute any help that might be accorded by generous England. The Secretary would acknowledge such gifts, whether of money, food, or clothing."

"There is a sort of edible sea weed called 'dillisc' used by the people on the Connemara sea coast. I saw a poor woman picking up a meal of it, on a cold afternoon in December, along the shore of Killery Bay at Leenane. Perhaps there was something in the background of barren mountain, grey sea, and stretch of stony beach covered with brown weed, that made the scene impressive, but the lonely figure gleaning a scanty supper from the shore looked inexpressibly sad. She told me the old story of 'no work, no money, no provision. I would be a hard winter for the poor, indade, God help them.' Her husband after nine weeks' journey in Scotland seeking work had returned poorer than he went. 'He's up the mountain now for a basket of turf. I've three children, an it's only three weeks old the youngest is itself. My ould mother lives with us too, and it was only last Sunday I buried my sister.' In answer to the cries of a ragged urchin, and having filled her can with weed she limped off, and soon disappeared into a wretched cabin, the door of which served for both chimney and window also."

"We are all familiar with pictures and stories setting forth the manner in which rollicking Irishmen drive their pigs to market, under many difficulties. Paddy now drives his pig to market in the same manner as of yore, but there is a sort of settled melancholy on his face, he looks terribly hungry, and the cruel cold searches him out through the manifold rents in his clothing. In many cases after standing several hours in the market he drives back the 'cratur' unsold. The shopkeeper, 'small blame to him,' at times pounces upon the pig, and confiscates him for payment of a long standing debt."

"The price of all sorts of live stock is very small at present, it is ruinous to sell and it is ruinous to keep, for the 'basties are ating their heads off.'"

"It is a good feature in the present crisis that, contrary to expectation, and thanks to the spell of fine weather which prevailed during the latter part of the year, the fuel is plentiful. Throughout the whole country, the hills and bogs are busy with women and girls carrying loads of turf on their backs. Little girls from twelve to fourteen years of age carry large baskets of fuel weighing about half a hundredweight from the bogs to the adjacent towns and villages four or five Irish miles for a pittance of three-halfpence a basket, or a pint or two of coarse Indian meal."

J. R. B.

FRENCH DINERS AND DINNERS

Did Matthew Arnold consider cooking beneath notice when he declared France to be

Famed in all great arts, in none supreme;

or did he question the superiority of the Great Nation in the kitchen as in the museum, the library? It seems most probable that the philosopher overlooked the gastronomic art—for French skill in all matters relating to dining has been hitherto undisputed by epicures as well as by the public generally. In point of fact, the French may be considered supreme in cookery, and in all the smaller arts relating thereto. They can best order a dinner, cook a dinner, and enliven a dinner. Who can compose a *menu* as a Frenchman can? Who can detect a wrong flavour as a Frenchman can? Who but a Frenchman can expatiate at length on the difference between a Mayonnaise and a Mayennaise?

A Frenchman is a born cook, a born *gourmet*, and no nation has as yet robbed him of his pre-eminence in this respect. The *cuisines* of Italy, of Germany, of Russia, of Spain, of England, are barbarous compared to the high-art cooking of France, where the cook takes as much pride in a rightly-flavoured sauce as Alma Tadema takes in the place awarded him on the walls of Burlington House. In France, as has been already said, every man is more or less of a *gourmet*, every man has a decided opinion on cookery, every man has a theory of his own as to the wines to be drunk, the birds to be eaten, the salads to be mixed under certain circumstances.

In England there are few men who have anything of a public reputation as epicures—there is, first of all, Fin-Bec, an epicure—a *gourmet* of the genuine French type—there was Mortimer Collins, and there was E. S. Dallas—and really, when these names have been mentioned, there seems none left. But Frenchmen are all more or less epicures; they all know something of the science of cooking; they like to have the reputation of *gourmets*, and they like, above all, to eat good dinners.

Each branch of each profession celebrates its good-fellowship by a representative dinner, at which it is the ambition of the unselect to be present. There are several purely literary dinners that take

place periodically in Paris. The dramatic critics dine at Brébant's on the first Wednesday in each month; the friends of Alphonse Lemerre, the publisher, who are known as the "Parnassiens," and each of whom must be a poet, have a periodical dinner, termed "à l'Homme qui bêche," so called from Lemerre's special sign of a man digging upon his artistic publications; the "Dîner Dentu," that takes place every month at the Restaurant Notta, is an offshoot of the famous "Dîner Taylor," at which the old Baron presided, and required every one to give their subscription in the form of a recitation or narrative. Paul de Musset, Emmanuel Gonzales, Hector Malot, Adolphe Belot, Fabre, Guérout, Jules Claretie, Pierre Zaccane, A. Theuriot, Du Boisgobey, Masson, Elie Berthet, are among the diners under Dentu's presidency—Paul Féval has consented to put his name on the list on the condition that he may be an "honorary guest." The naturalist school of literary men have a dinner called "Le Bœuf Nature," which is held on the first of every month at Brébant's. Emile Zola and Gustave Flaubert are in full force, and M. de Monpassant reads some of his highly-flavoured verse occasionally, M. Henrique and M. Huysmans following with their elaborate accounts of their work. François Coppée, the poet, dined once at "Le Bœuf Nature," and came away utterly aghast at the violence of these literary Nihilists who had, between their pear and their cheese, entirely dismissed as beneath notice all the contemporary literary men who were not present!

Artists are not so much given to exclusive gatherings as are men of letters. There was, it is true, the famous restaurant in the Rue du Bac where, it was said, every artist in Paris had made himself known, and there are several restaurants still in the Quartier Latin, where the art-students meet and feed, but many of the artists of the present day have lost their old characteristics, and consider themselves above the simple enjoyments of earlier days. Their dinners are generally a judicious blend of literature and art, and music even. In 1872 Carolus Duran, the now famous portrait painter, and Jules Claretie founded a dinner which was at first called "Dîner du Conde," signifying that one ought to go through life elbow to elbow, like soldiers in the ranks,—the "Dîner du Conde," soon merged in "La Macedoine" (*Macedoine* meaning mixture) in which all arts and sciences were included. Painters, men of letters, engineers, poets, musicians, composers, political notabilities, merchant princes, belong to "La Macedoine,"—a Minister, M. Tirard, is even among its members. "La Boulette" is the name of a literary and artistic dinner more recently founded,—it is so-called because the members decide on the election of a new member by means of a *boulette*, or pellet of bread. When a candidate's name is put forward, a hat is sent round the table, and those who are against the election drop a bread-pellet into the hat. One pellet is sufficient to ensure non-election. When a certain prominent Frenchman, whose name is best omitted, was put up as candidate not long ago, one of the voters put a whole loaf in the hat that was handed to him, saying that a bread-pellet did not sufficiently represent his feelings.

One of the most celebrated of these dinners was that which was originally termed the "Dîner Magny," and presently became the "Dîner Sainte-Beuve." Edmond and Jules de Goncourt, in their spirited account of the life and labours of Gavarni, relate how the artist in the latter part of 1862, suggested to Sainte-Beuve the formation of a group of clever and sympathetic men who should dine together once a fortnight *chez Magny*. Sainte-Beuve approved the proposition, and the first "Dîner Magny" took place in November, 1862, there being present Sainte-Beuve, Gavarni, Dr. Veyne, De Chanévières, and the brothers De Goncourt. The number of guests soon increased, and among the diners were, before long, Théophile Gautier, Gustave Flaubert, Paul de Saint-Victor, Scherer, Ernest Renan, and Baudry, Bouilhet, Soulié, Taine, and the Count de Nieuwerkerke. Although the dinner was literally due to the initiative of Gavarni, Sainte-Beuve was the leading spirit in it, and therefore his name was soon given to the fortnightly gatherings which took place on Mondays, Monday being always a comparatively free day for the men, like Sainte-Beuve and Gautier, who were known as *Lundistes* from the fact that their famous periodical contributions to the Press appeared on Mondays. The great Théo used often to exclaim joyously as he sat down to dine at Magny's, "Well, I have, at all events, enough money coming in to buy me a good breakfast to-morrow, or to bury me!" Arsène Houssaye, in one of his novels, described the fortnightly dinner at Magny's, founded by Gavarni, and dubbed it the *Dîner d'Athlès*. The title struck the public fancy, and it was so often termed *le Dîner d'Athlès* that many persons thought it was the legitimate name of it, much to the displeasure of some among the diners. The conversation was brilliant as a rule. The work "discussion" was put aside as too mild, "dispute" was the only word that represented the fierce arguments of Sainte-Beuve and his friends. Georges Sand was present sometimes, but would only put in an appearance at dessert, and rarely joined in the conversation. Flaubert was always ready to give vent to his horror of politics, while Dr. Veyne, an ardent Republican, was not ashamed to say so, even in those early days of the dinner; all shades of opinion were represented *chez Magny*, and the great Théo confessed one day to being nervous because there were thirteen at table, upon which Sainte-Beuve sent for young Magny to make a fourteenth, and Théo was quieted. Gautier himself was in the habit of expressing the most unusual theories concerning existence at large, and one of his favourite creeds was that any one who stood over fish that had just been thrown into the frying pan could hear their cries of pain!

Magny was a great man among *restaurateurs*, and his restaurant in the Quartier Latin was a veritable storehouse of associations, of souvenirs of the great men of a bygone time. It was at Magny's that a party of Paris students who had invited Proudhon to dine with them played the great philosopher a trick. When Proudhon was shown into the dining-hall he saw a table covered with an unbleached linen cloth, upon which were disposed the roughest and coarsest of plates, the very humblest of knives and forks, and jugs of wine. Proudhon was asked to sit on a wooden bench, and when the soup was served, and this Spartan banquet had begun, his face fell, in spite of all his philosophy. He was looking positively unhappy, when a door was thrown open, and the students invited him to continue his dinner at a table laid out with the utmost elegance, and luxury, and profusion, and on which bottles of champagne of the finest *crus* took the place of the jugs of wine on the more democratic table, his place at which Proudhon gave up with true philosophy.

When Magny died some months ago, considerable interest was manifested in him, and great anxiety was expressed as to the fate of the restaurant, but Madame Magny (a sister of Brébant's) was dead some years since; no one has come forward to keep up the place, and it is doomed, I presume, to disappear. There are still one or two representative dinners that I have not yet noticed, the "Dîner de la Pomme," for Germans and Bretons; the "Dîner de la Cigale," for the people from the centre of France; the "Dîner de la Soupe aux Choux," for the provincials from the eastern departments. Curious banquets have been held also at various times at the prison of Sainte Pelagie, where refractory journalists, whose opinions have been displeasing to the various Governments, have been imprisoned from time immemorial, and only the other day twelve dozen oysters were consumed by four martyrs to their opinions at the opening of a fraternal banquet, in prison.

Not only are the French people fond of dining, and connoisseurs in dining, but they may be appealed to on their gastronomic side. For instance, nothing has pleased them better in M. Thiers than his well-known partiality for the good things of life. M. Thiers' great weakness was a dish, strictly Provençal, and essentially vulgar, called *brandade*, consisting of salt cod and oil skilfully combined. Doctors, in late years, forbade M. Thiers to eat cod, in any shape or form, and, much as he wished for it, Madame Thiers was inflexible.

But M. Thiers had an ally, M. Mignet, and from time to time this gentleman used to reach the Hotel St. Georges with a voluminous parcel under his arm. He would bow rapidly to the ladies, and pass into the great man's study. Then an urgent plea of important work was put forward, the doors were locked, and intruders sent away. Directly they were alone, the two friends undid the parcel, which was simply a tin box wrapped in a newspaper, and containing an unctuous *brandade*, made by the best Provençal cook in Paris. The friends consumed this forbidden delicacy with lingering delight, and when the box was entirely empty, and the doors were unlocked, Thiers would be heard exclaiming, "My dear Mignet, it is the masterpiece of human genius!"—and every one thought he referred to some great literary achievement. But Madame Thiers one day caught the two culprits at their work, and reproached M. Mignet so severely, that after that he never dared enter the hotel with a parcel under his arm. The celebrated "Frères Provençaux" owed their fame and fortune to this dish. They reached Paris with the secret as to the manufacture of it as their only capital—and every one knows what use they made of their knowledge!

Just as these points in the great Adolphe's character popularised him among his country-people, so the rumour of the favourite salad at Marlborough House has served to achieve the Prince's reputation. "La Salade du Prince de Galles"—to which the Heir Apparent is said to be extremely partial—is composed of sardines, boned, and cut in small pieces; lettuce, watercress, and chervil with minced capers are added; the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs are pounded into flour and put into the salad bowl, with salt, pepper, cayenne, and mustard, three table-spoonsful of lemon juice. The salad is garnished with slices of lemon and pickled capsciums; and woe to the guest at select Paris dinners, who finds the flavour too strong, and is led to speculate on princely digestion. The Prince of Wales has completed his conquest of the French people by appealing to their gastronomic susceptibilities; a pet salad affects their sympathies more than a pet scheme for the regeneration of mankind!

CORISANDE

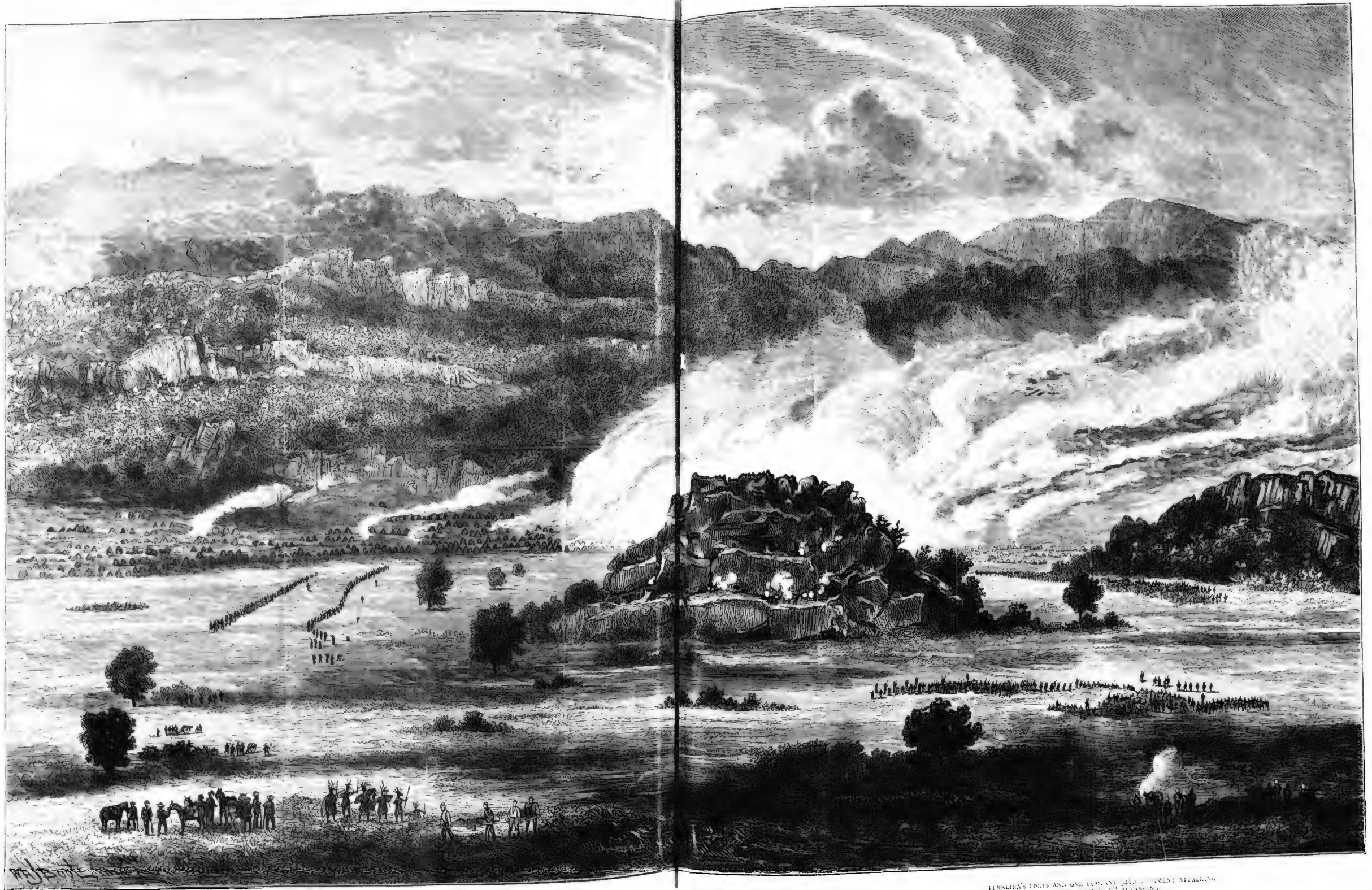


MESSRS. WEEKES AND CO.—A series of "Offertory Sentences," composed by Edmund H. Turpin, are worthy the pen of this clever musician, and will be a useful addition to all organists' libraries.—Two very pleasing part-songs, by Wilfred E. Bendall, are "The Twilight Shades are Falling," words from the German, and "May," words by Francis Bennock. Choral societies will do well to add them to their *répertoires*, as, although unpretending and not difficult, they are fresh and tuneful.—A brace of songs, the music by W. C. Gillian, are very fair specimens of the drawing-room ballad school. Of the one, "In the Wood," the words are by the late Miss Procter; for the other, "O Woods that O'er the Waters Breathe," the somewhat incoherent poetry is by Aubrey de Vere, whose sentiments are worthy of his romantic name.—Of precisely the same type are three songs, by Alfred J. Caldicott, Mus. Bac., Cantab. Best and most original of the three is "Parted," a song for a contralto; the pathetic poetry is by Lord Byron.—"My Valentine" and "Lost Love" are but of average merit—the former cheerful, the latter lachrymose.—A quaint and pretty poem, "Sweet and Gay," by E. Oxenford, has been ably set to music by Berthold Tours; it is of medium compass, and will surely become a general favourite.—Both words, by the Rev. T. H. Twist, M.A., and music, by Henry Houseley, of "I Listened One Autumn Evening," a cavatina for a mezzo-soprano, are worthy of commendation.—Three brief "Preludes for the Organ" and a "Fantasia in F for the Organ" are excellent specimens of F. E. Gladstone's work; they will deserve the notice of organists in general.—Two scrambling fantasias for the pianoforte, by Boyton Smith, are "Wales" and "Scotland;" well-known national airs are rent into variations in the orthodox style, and will surely please the few who admire this almost obsolete school of composition. This composer has done far better—in fact, remarkably well—with a transcription for the pianoforte of Batiste's world-famed Andante in G.—Neatly and grammatically written, "Three Movements" for the pianoforte:—No. 1, "Canzonetta;" 2, "Scherzo;" 3, "Burlesca," by F. W. Hird, are well calculated for school practice.

B. WILLIAMS.—Full of pathos and healthy sentiment are the words by F. E. Weatherly, of "The Bugler," a narrative song, music by Ciro Pinsuti; it is well calculated for a People's Concert.—Equally pathetic are both words and music of a song for a mezzo-soprano, "The Snow that Husheth All," written and composed by Henry Pontet.—For a tenor with a sympathetic voice, "A May Song," written and composed by Violet Fane and Jacques Blumenthal, will prove very effective.—"Carina" is a tuneful and danceable valse by C. H. R. Marriott.—The attractive frontispiece of a maternal cat and her two kittens to "Mes Mignons," a set of quadrilles by Dan Godfrey, is very much better than the music, which is poor.

MESSRS. STANLEY LUCAS, WEBER, AND CO.—Longfellow's charming poem, "Daybreak," has been arranged in a musicianly manner by Walter Macfarren as a part song for S., A., T., and B.—Of average merit, but wanting in originality, and calculated to win but passing fame, are four drawing-room songs. "Hast Thou Forgotten?" written and composed by W. H. Crossman and Charles Winterbottom, of medium compass, is spoiled by the tedious repetition of the title phrase. "They Tell Me, my Darling," is the sad plaint of a dying lover, by A. R. A. L., set to a pleasing melody by Isidore de Lara. Both words by Algernon Brent, and music by R. F. Brion, of "When I Think of Thee," are of the stereotyped love ditty school with which the musical market is overstocked. Another depressing song, written and composed by Somerville Gibney and Eaton Fanning, is "The Whisper of the Wind," with harmonium accompaniment *ad lib.* after the much-frowned model, "The Lost Chord."—The long spell of dark gloomy weather has influenced the spirits of our song-writers, and led them to produce little else but melancholy complaints. "Album Blätter" for the pianoforte, No. 1, "Melody," and No. 2, "Scherzo," by the rising young composer, Kate Ockleston, are highly to be commended.—A "Chaconne," by Naumann, has been neatly arranged for the pianoforte by Louis Liebe.—It is quite a pleasure to meet with such musicianly compositions as "Les Arpèges" and "The Pixies' Revels," by J. Baptiste Calkin: they will speedily win favour with "all who good music love."

LAMBORN COCK.—The cheerful and genuine poetry of "County Guy," by Sir Walter Scott, has inspired Beatrice B. Simpson with a tuneful melody, of medium compass.—So pretty and singable a duet for equal voices as "At Sunrise," written and composed by W. Guernsey and F. Berger, will be welcome alike in the drawing and schoolroom.—From Charles Gardner comes a setting of Wordsworth's graceful poem, "The Daffodils," which is spoiled by the confusing arrangement of writing the song for a soprano and contralto in the same copy, instead of publishing it in two keys, a false economy which will cause a majority of singers to put it aside untried.—Somewhat out of the common groove is "Ti Saluto" (A Salutation), Italian and English words by George Eric Mackay, music by Mrs. Mounsey Bartholomew; a good tenor may do well with this song in the drawing or concert room.



TWO COMPANIES 21ST (R.S.F.) IN RESERVE
TWO COMPANIES 94TH REGIMENT ADVANCING IN SUPPORT
THREE COMPANIES 21ST (R.S.F.) ATTACKING

SEKUKUNI'S TOWN IN FLAMES

THREE COMPANIES AND ONE COMPANY 21ST (R.S.F.) ATTACKING
SWAZIS "BORDER LINES" ALONG

THE CAPTURE OF SEKUKUNI'S STRONGHOLD—GENERAL VIEW OF THE ATTACK, 10 A.M., NOV. 28, 1879

THE DOG-REFORMER

THE learned Professor Schupkerl of the University of Brunswick had, from his youth up, been much exercised about the question as to whether it is possible for a man to master the language of dogs. He was a linguist after a new fashion. Disdaining the difficulties of Hebrew and Sanscrit, and indifferent to the beauties of modern Italian and French, he had applied all the energies of his great mind solely to the study of the inflections which are to be found in the barking of dogs. He had noticed, like the rest of us, that dogs bark differently, according to circumstances. They bay, yelp, howl, whine, snarl, or give tongue joyously. Sometimes the peculiar barking of a cur in the streets will set all the other dogs within earshot barking; whereas that same cur, lifting up his voice on other occasions, might possibly not evoke a single responsive echo. The conclusion which Herr Schupkerl deduced from this, long before his first beard had sprouted, was that dogs had a language; and he set himself to study it—with the greater hope of success, as there was no canine grammar to impede him.

Whilst at school he always had a pack of pet dogs. He boarded at 10 re, and so was enabled to devote himself to the companionship of these four-footed tutors every evening when his tasks were over; and, truth to say, there were none of his academical lessons that he learned with so much zest as those which he took from the mongrels who infested his father's back yard. Schupkerl, senior, would not allow the dogs to enter his house, so in winter young Schupkerl was fain to sit in an outhouse, saying "Bow, wow, wow" by the hour, and thus trying, so far as his chattering teeth would permit, to carry on dialogues with his four-legged friends; but in summer he made much greater progress, for he could sit in the garden and take his lessons amid a suitable temperature, in the mellow light of fine sunsets. Thus it came to pass that young Schupkerl gradually arrived at some very profound observations about the ways of dogs, and worked them up in a book which brought him to great honour. Soon after he had taken his degree, the Duke of Brunswick appointed him Professor of Natural History at the University, and Perpetual Curator of all the lost dogs in the Duchy. At the same time many learned Societies claimed him as a Fellow; and Mr. Darwin initiated a correspondence with him which soon ripened into a warm personal friendship.

But all this was as nothing to Professor Schupkerl, who had no peace in his mind until he had conquered the first elements of Doggish. He was about thirty years old when his strenuous application at last achieved success. His voice being then fully developed and manageable as a first-class wind instrument he could bark with it in such wise as to deceive even dogs of long experience. He had only to hide himself; and the very dogs which he himself owned would be lured into giving prolonged answers to the extraordinary sounds which his human throat uttered. Herr Schupkerl was a nuisance to his neighbours by reason of his barking; but he had at least the satisfaction of knowing that he had taken the first deep dip into a linguistic science which was fraught with infinite possibilities for the future.

The first words which the Professor learned to say in Doggish were, "I want a bone!" They were taught him by an old white poodle named "Freyschutz," who had all along evinced the utmost interest in his education, and had indeed shown himself the most patient of tutors. Whatever was said to him by the Professor Freyschutz repeated with an intelligent look, giving the bark its correct intonation slowly, and thus rectifying the Professor's errors in pronunciation. In this way the Professor, having once got a keyword, learned a good many others, till he arrived at a radical discovery concerning Doggish; and was moved to innovate upon a language which has been spoken by dogs to their own satisfaction and everybody else's since quadrupeds were first created, a few thousands of years ago.

Herr Schupkerl discovered that Doggish consists entirely of affirmatives—one may say of aphorisms—that is, has no negatives, and consequently is not adapted for argument. When a dog says, "The beef was good," it does not occur to another dog to say, "The beef was not good," or "The beef might have been better." The original proposition, if offensive is the interlocutor, may be answered by some such phrase as "You're a liar," but that, though a counter aphorism, is no argument. Certain dogs tell lies, and other dogs know it. When a base-bred cur or too talkative pup runs to a door, barking at the sound of a familiar step, and saying, "Here's a thief coming," the older and honest dog gives a grunt which means, "A peace to such foolery." So it is with other matters; but one must note that when a dog is rebuked for falsehood, he never recants his misstatement, but simply attenuates the force of it by repeating it less loudly than before, or else he becomes silent. Herr Schupkerl remarked, by the by, that dogs are much more easily silenced than women.

Now it became the Professor's ambition to introduce the negative into Doggish, and so cause rational argument to take the place of brutish wrangling. It is evident that intellectual culture cannot be developed so long as a language admits of no other retort to a positive statement but a counter statement equally positive and obstinate. The "No" in human language engendered the "Why?" and the "Why?" gave birth to the "Because." These words are as grandfather, father, and son in the logical family, and from them have sprung the whole tribe of arguments, disquisitions, subtleties, and fallacies. Professor Schupkerl did not want to teach his dogs to be fallacious; and he hoped that when they had learned to argue they would keep their tongues from politics and theology, which have not sweetened relations between members of the human race; but, as an innovator, he was of course bound to prosecute the scheme he had taken in hand rather than to measure its consequences. To the astonishment, and even alarm, of the poodle Freyschutz he began by enunciating such incontrovertible propositions as "A bone is good," in a sorrowful tone, as if he had his misgivings on the point. Then he barked the words defiantly as if to challenge contradiction; then he whined them into a sort of mocking accent as though they amused him by their absurdity. He was thus feeling his way to the construction of a negative. But Freyschutz could not make this out at all, and being a discreet dog, stared his master in the face, and barked "A bone is good" several times over in the proper tone, that is, one of earnestness and deep conviction. The Professor, not to be balked, again barked his words in accents of derision, whereupon poor Freyschutz, utterly nonplussed, lifted his muzzle in a plaintive howl, saying: "Niaou—oo—oo—oo!" Unconsciously the poor dog had created a canine negative. The uproarious hilarity of the Professor taught him that some great thing must have happened, for the very learned gentleman leaped out of his chair and bounded about the room, till presently he caught Freyschutz by the waist, waltzed round the table with him, and then kissed him fervently on both cheeks. On that day Freyschutz must have thought that the whole race of men had gone mad. He was of course unconscious of the fact that Schupkerl intended him to be the founder of a whole school of discursive dogs. A foresight of this glory only presented itself to him when he found the Professor bent upon making him repeat Niaou—oo—oo—oo in connection with all sorts of unsuitable phrases. The poor dog did as he was bidden, but he could not at first guess what was the value of the word which it was sought to force into all his speeches; and when he did at last guess it he felt much as a Jesuit might do who should be compelled to speak heresy. Schupkerl's purpose was to induce Freyschutz to go forth into the streets and invite controversy with other dogs by addressing them in words weighted with his new negative. It mattered little to the

Professor that Freyschutz risked being taken for a fool by declaring that bones were *not* good, that dinner was *not* wanted, and so forth. The great point was to get the meaning of the negative explained to all the dogs in Brunswick, and thereby to oblige them to invent all the Doggish equivalents for "Why?" and "Because." The enthusiastic Professor, who believed in education as in a new revelation, saw opening before his eyes a ravishing vision of the future, in which academies of dogs should discuss protoplasm, while canine parliaments should frame laws for the better regulation of their relations with man.

Unfortunately for this fine view dogs are by nature conservative; and the wretched Freyschutz was destined to undergo the persecution which falls to the lot of all reformers, whether they preach on two legs or on four. On his first proclaiming his unorthodox views about beef in the streets of Brunswick, he was sternly silenced by a mastiff twice as big, though but half as learned, as himself; and on his repeating his offence he was cruelly bitten and rolled in the mud by a bull-dog even less erudite than the mastiff. On both these occasions the public opinion of Doggery took part with the stronger side, as it does sometimes in the quarrels of bipeds; and the despised Freyschutz was fain to come limping home with his tail tucked under his legs. The Professor was much afflicted by this failure of his hopes; but he loved his own canine tutor too well to bear that he should become a martyr to the good cause. Accordingly he resolved to preach to his dogs himself; and, like a shrewd apostle as he was, he armed himself for this purpose with a stout stick, "in order" as he said, "that right should not go unassisted by might."

Under these circumstances his ministration succeeded rather better than Freyschutz's. Having struck a few of the bigger caballing dogs sharply over the head he drove them off, and the audience that remained (composed only of dispirited curs), listened to his remarks with all outward show of deference. But, alas, none of them had any ambition to dispute with him; nor had he Doggish words enough at his disposal to make them understand how much their happiness would be increased if they learned to argue. When he denied in their hearing the goodness of beef they pensively hung their heads as if they were hearing quite a new thing, but the sight of his big stick overawed them into the appearance of acquiescing. However, not one of these benighted dogs made the slightest effort to repeat or understand the new negative which the poodle Freyschutz had invented.

A less resolute man than Schupkerl would have given up his self-imposed task; but the Professor persevered through good and evil report, following dogs from street to street and vainly looking for disciples, till one day a painful thing occurred. A miserable cropeared mongrel, who had been preached to by the Professor for an hour, went afterwards and bit an Aulic Councillor in the leg. The Councillor swore that the dog was mad, and died of fright so as to avoid death by rabies. Upon this the Councillor's heirs thought it seemly to prosecute Schupkerl as an instigator, and to lay a memorial against him before the Duke.

The matter would not have been very serious at ordinary times; but it happened that just then a Socialist conspiracy broke out in the Duchy, and all official minds were much disturbed thereat. When the plot had been stifled the Duke sent for the Professor, and said to him severely:—

"I should have thought, Herr Schupkerl, that, after all my kindness to you, you would have known better than to set the very dogs of my dominions at me."

"But your Highness is mistaken," pleaded Schupkerl abashed. "All I have done is to try and teach the dogs."

"Teach the dogs?" exclaimed the Duke of Brunswick with a sneer. "Teach them what, sir?—Discontent? They have been accustomed to say 'Yes,' and you want to habituate them to the use of the word 'No.' All your educated dogs, sir, would be Opposition dogs—scoffers, carpers, inimical to established institutions like the young men who are taught to argue in your precious schools. No, sir, I'll have none but happy and loyal dogs about me. Go home and tell your friend, Freyschutz, that the eyes of my police will be upon him, and that I'll have him chained up for life unless he mends his manners."

"This is unlimited despotism," muttered Schupkerl to himself; but fearing that he should perhaps be chained up alongside of Freyschutz, he prudently held his peace and backed out.

The same day a Ducal decree was issued prohibiting all the dogs in Brunswick from saying "No," wherefore they have been barking affirmatives dutifully ever since. *Quousque tandem?*

E. C. GRENVILLE MURRAY

MR. R. H. HORNE'S "LAURA DIBALZO"

It is possible that the announcement of a new work from the pen of Mr. Horne may attract the minority, rather than the majority, amongst contemporary readers. It is very certain that the eclectic audience in question will be such as the author would best approve, viz.: the folk who know and appreciate the writings of one of our noblest living poets, and can sympathise with lofty sentiments expressed in verse which might, without hyperbole, be almost called faultless. Mr. Horne, like Gray, has written comparatively little; like that great genius also, it would seem that the cause is his aversion to writing except under the direct poetic inspiration,—and the result is that all his work will live. Now the veteran dramatist steps forward with a tragedy which must, perforce, arrest the notice of even the most frivolous of readers, by dint not only of the elegance of its style, but by the thorough human tenderness and sympathy which dwell in the story, and the magnificent opportunity which it offers to any actress who can fittingly present the heroine. The story is such as must at once appeal to all lovers of true freedom, as opposed to so-called "liberty"; it deals with the lives and deaths of the noble men who sorrowed and suffered under the evil rule of the most notorious of modern kings—the last crowned monarch but one who ruled the Two Sicilies. The immediate plot turns upon the conspiracy against the tyrant, in which a Sicilian, Claudio Dibalzo, is the leading spirit, and upon its miserable failure. But the real spirit of the piece consists in the character of the arch-conspirator's wife, Laura. By accident, their little child Edith has overheard certain expressions which prove the husband's complicity; and one of the strongest scenes in the play is that in which the mother, confronted with the innocent baby during the trial, is forced to hear it babble away its father's life. An offer of pardon for her husband is made to Laura, on condition of her revealing the names of his fellow-conspirators, who have escaped; but she, with Spartan heroism, keeps her trust to the last, and when the cruel engine crushes out his life, dies with him—killed by her agony of conflicting passions. Her dying speech, which closes the play, is one of the most powerful that has been written for years. Since *The Two Foscari*, we know of no play of so great intensity. Space forbids us to do more than hint at the manifold beauties of the work from a poetical point of view; but we may draw attention to those passages which have already been indicated, and to the scene where the priest, San Volpe, tries to tempt Laura—only, would an *auto da fé* have been possible in Naples at that date? The tragedy is a fine one in every sense, and, should it ever be properly played, ought to command no ordinary success.

* "Laura Dibalzo; or, the Patriot Martyr," a Tragedy, by Richard Hengist Horne (London: Newman and Co.).

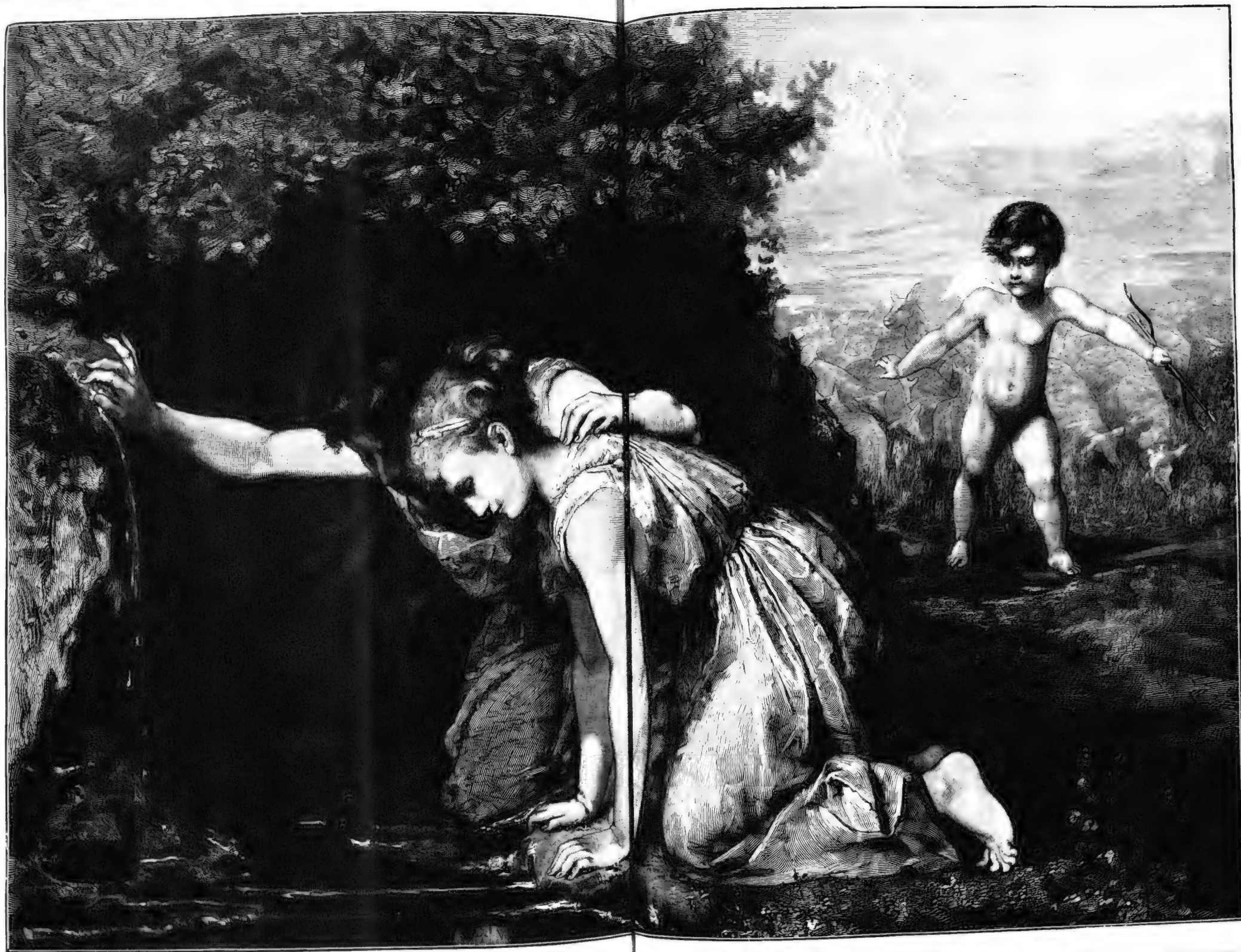


MRS. GRAY'S "Fourteen Months in Canton" (Macmillan) bears the same relation to her husband's two volumes that a pleasant chat does to a learned essay. She has simply published her letters to her mother; and mothers who have daughters abroad will wish, while they read, that such powers of observation and conscientiousness in describing were not so rare as they are. It was of course a great help to be the wife of an archdeacon who could astonish the natives by "speaking the clear language," and who had won their good will by his tact no less than by his zeal. Temple doors flew open to the cry: "Open for a venerable foreigner who wishes to pass through." At one temple, where an oracle was worked by something very like Planchette, the god accommodatingly put off proceedings till they had done breakfast, and then expressed his pleasure that foreigners were present: "I hold," he said, "communication with their god, and I know they are come on a good errand." They on their part were careful not to offend prejudices. We cannot say that Mrs. Gray ate dog and cat and rat out of deference to native usage; her doing so was the result of a playful trick of the Archdeacon's; but she never hung in public on her husband's arm in the fashion which so outrages the Cantonese sense of propriety, and when they paid a call together they took care to treat one another with well-bred indifference. They often interchanged hospitalities with the Howquas, who once gave them an English dinner, succeeding admirably except in the wine, which (thanks to the cheating comprador) was execrable. Mrs. Gray saw everything—mandarins opening the year with ploughing, a grand review, a shooting-match (the competitors firing as they galloped past the mark), the Chinese Feast of All Souls in the "City of the Dead," a procession of dragon-boats, and (not the least interesting) a duck-hatching, where she was in at the coming to life of hundreds of ducklings. She saw, too, what very few see, the women's apartments in houses like Howqua's. She speaks of the natural grace of Chinese ladies, even of one who, having been born a slave, had only just been promoted to wife-hood, and had not the aristocratic little feet. English cookery, however, these ladies could not stomach, though they politely pronounced everything excellent; the gentlemen got on better, and Howqua meant it when he said to his hostess: "Thank you; No. 1 good dinner." Courtesy was not confined to rich merchants, and officials who, valuing literary titles, were duly impressed with the greatness of an M.A. and LL.D. At a farm-house where they stopped to lunch, the whole clan, which was just going to feast together, gave the hall up to them and fed in the open air. Fancy an English village-club disturbing itself in that way for the sake of some Russian tourists. Like most other people, the Chinese are an odd mixture. For instance, their street names, "Bright Cloud Street," "Street of the Hundred Grandsons," "of the Resting Dragon," &c., are as poetical as befits those who have evolved the legend of the Lost Pleiad; yet in many things they are strangely matter-of-fact. Thus a son, without in the least intending it as a hint, gives papa a neat coffin as a birthday present. Everybody ought to read Mrs. Gray's book, and no one can read it without liking the Chinese, and hoping that we may deal with them in a less high-handed way than heretofore.

Captain G. A. Raikes, F.S.A., &c., who, in two thick volumes, gives "The History of the Honourable Artillery Company" (Bentley and Son), remarks that "governed under Royal Warrant, and being the only military body over which Parliament has no control, it has perhaps more title than any other corps to consider itself a Royal body-guard." At any rate, it is older than any other British regiment, having been incorporated by Henry VIII. in 1537, though "Finsbury Fields" themselves are not more changed than is "the Fraternity of Artillery" which used to practise chiefly archery in them. Its changes mark epochs in English history. Thus in 1660 the Company veered round as quickly as the rest of the nation, and cashiered its Captain, Skippon, appointing in his place the Duke of York. Highmore (to whom Captain Raikes often refers) says that, some years before, the Cavaliers had got hold of it and destroyed its old records. Anyhow, after the Restoration, Monk and Ormond and Montagu, Earl of Manchester, and the Duke of Monmouth and many other noblemen were elected members. Not long before the Plague broke out the Company was practising a most elaborate "exercise at armes, the Romans invading Græce," Moorfields representing the plains of Thessaly. The Artillery Ground escaped both the Plague (though it came very near being taken for a burying place) and the Fire, which only broke down a piece of the wall. In 1744 the Company expressed in grand phrases and with abundance of capitals its Detestation of the Pretender, and its Grenadiers were ordered "always to be summoned by the title of the Hanover Grenadiers of the Artillery Company." It does not appear whether they joined in the March to Finchley, but they made Wilkes a general, and helped to put down the Gordon Riots, and in 1783 lent their ground to Lunardi for the first balloon ascent made in England. With the history of our Company Captain Raikes has incorporated that of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. He dedicates his book to the Prince of Wales, the present Captain-General.

Mr. R. G. Webster's "Trade of the World" (David Bogue) is also dedicated to the Prince of Wales. It contains a summary of our foreign and colonial trade, including a number of interesting details about China and Japan, both of which the author has visited, and also a chapter on our external food-supply, showing that for Indian wheat to be imported at a profit we must await the completion of the Indus Valley Railway. But what will chiefly interest most readers are the chapters on Reciprocity, and a so-called Free-Trade Zollverein, from the benefits of which all Protectionist States shall be excluded. Mr. Webster thinks there is no doubt our trade is declining. The other day, in Sheffield, he was struck with the ominous clearness of the atmosphere—"More than half the furnaces were blown out." Whence comes the depression? Strikes have had a terrible effect on some industries, e.g., on ship-building; and "men like Mr. Macdonald, who coolly told the coalminers not to resume work, though they should turn Warwickshire into a desert, are chiefly responsible for the present distress." Foreign tariffs (e.g., the French sugar bounty, the Belgian glass-duty) have crippled others; while American manufacturers, selling dear many protected things at home, can afford to undersell us in other things. Something must be done, unless we can contemplate with Mr. J. S. Mill's equanimity such a decay of our export trade as shall deprive us of all our imports. We can't go back to Protection; and yet Free Trade has not answered the expectations of the doctrinaires. "Try the Zollverein," says Mr. Webster; "it will put an end to trade-panics by ensuring a steady demand." He shows that even Adam Smith advocated the laying on of high duties, by thereby we can force other nations to repeal their high duties; and he reminds us that, as a matter of history, this has often been done. The mistake with some of us has been to look on political economy as a purely theoretical science.

When a J.P. prefaces his book with Puff's words in the *Critic*:—"Heyday! here's a cut! What, are all the mutual protestations out?" he tempts us to look on the whole thing as a joke. Mr. A. N. Montgomery, however, is confident that "The Natal Magistrate" (Davis and Sons, Pietermaritzburg) will be useful



A PEEP IN CUPID'S MIRROR
FROM THE PICTURE BY J. AUBERT

both to magistrates and to the public; and no doubt his confidence is well grounded. Besides what his English brother ought to know, the Natal magistrate should know something of Roman-Dutch and of native law. By native law, for instance, the Roman-Dutch takes the elder's childless widow, unless she refuses younger brother's advice that "contempt of Court should be checked, not by an ebullition of feeling, for whatever is ungentlemanly, and it is certainly ungentlemanly to unchristian in a passion," and that "constables should be warned that they are not bloodhounds of the law but peace officers, bound to show tact, forbearance, and patience," is sometimes needed elsewhere than in Natal.

"Among the Boers" (Remington and Co.) is not an attractive title. We are rather overdone with Boers and Kafirs, and driving down bankies, and inspanning and outspanning, and President Burgers and his fiasco against Secocoeni, and Bass at 5s. a bottle. If, instead of making a book, and dedicating it to Sir M. Hicks Beach, "in appreciation of his sympathetic and intelligent Colonial policy," Mr. Nixon had published his first and last chapters with his alternative title, "Notes of a Trip to South Africa in Search of Health," he would have done better for himself and for society. The climate for consumptives must, the doctors now say, be high and dry. The Transvaal is both; and it has this advantage over Davos, that you can enjoy one summer in Europe, and then get another at Bloemfontein or Pretoria. In proof of the dryness of the climate we are told that in January the difference between the wet and dry bulbs is sometimes 29 deg. Invalids must take care not to do too much at once till the lung has got used to the thin air in which it feels so vigorous. Mr. Nixon also gives some very useful hints to emigrants. The best thing a young man can do, unless he has the *nos* for succeeding as storekeeper, is to take to "transport-riding" (carrying goods). When he has thus learnt something about the country he may hopefully begin to farm."

We have all heard of the nobleman who used to go to a hospital and take his turn amongst the gratuitous patients. Mr. H. C. Burdett, author of "Cottage Hospitals," &c., tells us of a rich tradesman who boasted that he got the best medical advice for his family gratis, and without waste of time, by paying a shilling to the hospital porter. Ours is almost the only country in which patients who can and patients who cannot afford it are alike exempt from payment. Even in Ireland large sums are contributed to most of the hospitals; and Mr. Burdett notes the unfairness of taking in the English policeman for nothing, while his Irish brother is expected to pay. In his "Pay Hospitals and Paying Wards throughout the World" (Churchill), he gives an array of facts in support of a re-arrangement of the English system of medical relief. In America the mixture of free and paying patients is found to work well, the scale of payments being fixed according to the patients' means, and the managing committees really looking into the matter. Joint action is needed; for lack of this a flourishing Cottage Hospital came to grief. Patients liked it immensely; but the County Infirmary was open to them free; no one therefore ever came to the Cottage a second time. We heartily wish Mr. Burdett's scheme success. He somewhat complicates his subject by treating of the need (no doubt very great) of convalescent homes, and also of the importance of pay-hospitals for the higher ranks, i.e., private boarding-houses for medical purposes, more like the little *maisons de santé* in Dublin than their huge namesake in Paris. Some of us remember the correspondence about opening such a club-house for the sick in Manchester Square, and Lord Portman's violent opposition; and also the attempt to turn one of the pavilions in that sad instance of over-building, St. Thomas's, into such a home hospital without allowing the honorary doctors to share in the gains.

We regret that we can do little more than call attention to the reprint by Messrs. Birch and Grenfell, Governors of the Bank of England, of Lord Liverpool's "Treatise on the Coin of the Realm" (Edinburgh Wilson). Recent discussions on international currency, and the proposal of a double currency for India have given fresh importance to a work which has long been out of print. Lord Liverpool, in opposition to Locke, who maintained that "gold is not the money of the world," points out that gold is proved to be the chief instrument of commerce by the fact that changes in the purity of our gold coin have at once affected the price of gold and silver bullion, which has not been affected at all by the state of our silver coinage. The changes in the relative values of gold and silver are curious. Lord Liverpool calculates that it was 11½ to 1 in Persia, 10 to 1 in later Greece, while in Rome it varied, from 7½ to 1, when the gold of Gaul flooded the currency, to 14½ to 1 under Arcadius and Honorius. In England, between Edward III. to James I., the highest proportion was rather over 11½ to 1 in 1347, the lowest 10½ to 1 in 1412. The discovery of America seems to have made very little change.

"The Life and Work of Mary Carpenter," by J. Estlin Carpenter, M.A. (Macmillan), is the story of a life of singular activity and far-reaching usefulness. Miss Carpenter was not the founder of ragged schools; that honour belongs to John Pounds, the Portsmouth shoemaker. He was followed by Sheriff Watson of Aberdeen, and by others both in Scotland and in London. It was not till 1846 that she opened her school at Lewin's Mead, Bristol, and very soon after she became convinced of the inadequacy of ragged schools, and set herself, in conjunction with Recorder Hill of Birmingham, and the Chaplains of Liverpool and Preston Gaols, to start good Reformatories. The contrast between our Parkhurst and M. Demetz's Mettrai, or Wichern's Rauhe Haus, called loudly for some application to our criminal children of the principles of Christian love. With the help of Lady Byron and others, a school was opened at Kingswood in the old schoolhouse for Wesleyan ministers' sons. Thence it was transferred to Red Lodge, Bristol; and, while Miss Carpenter continued zealously to work in it as well as in her ragged school, she also extended her efforts to adult convicts, mastering Sir Walter Crofton's Irish prison system, and speaking (at Social Science Congresses), and writing on the Convict question and kindred topics. But her Indian work is what she will be chiefly remembered by. When she was twenty-six years old Rammohun Roy, for some time a correspondent of her father, came over to England, and died close to her home. She had been deeply impressed with the beautiful earnestness of his character, and just before starting for India she drew up for the use of his countrymen a narrative of his last days in England. By inviting attention to his aims she hoped to secure a hearing in her grand attempt to further woman's education among the Hindoos. Her religious views would, she thought, help her with the Calcutta Theists whose prejudices were strong against the ordinary proselytising missionary. In 1866 in the fifty-ninth year of her age, she made her first voyage, and at once began work at Ahmedabad. She soon discovered, like Dr. Duff, that the main want was trained female teachers; a newly-founded ladies' school at Ahmedabad she found was being taught by men. Nor did she confine herself to female education; reformatories for India and the state of the Indian prisons also occupied her attention. When we say that in carrying out her plans she made four voyages to India (besides a visit to America, by way of Palestine), we say enough to show that life is worth the study of all who care for their faith in human nature to be strengthened. It ought, too, to teach us charity, by showing that good works are not the peculiar possession of the orthodox.

Scarcely have we recovered from the inundation of Christmas and New Year's cards than the approaching festival of St. Valentine carries before it a flood of those artistic cardboard and lace paper productions which fond lovers are wont to send each other at that season. Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. are first in the field this year, and have forwarded a packet of some very pretty valentines,

consisting mainly of cards with coloured pictures and appropriate mottoes and verses, the subjects varying from Cupid riding on a dragon fly, or driving a team of butterflies, to two bird lovers chirruping together on one bough, surrounded by roses, passion flowers, and convolvuli. They are all exceedingly tastefully painted. The same publishers also send us some of their paper book covers, which are easily fitted to any book, and are valuable to those who lend out the contents of their library to children or people whose hands may not be of the cleanest.

There is a good deal to commend in "Night-Winds, and Other Poems and Songs," by E. W. Spawton (Leicester: S. Catlow).—It is very modestly introduced, the author has evidently a keen ear for music, and—if we cannot always agree with his views—we still feel that he is speaking from thorough conviction. By far the best things in the volume are the festive ditties, such as "Be Brave, and be Doing," or "Come! fill up glasses all around;" but, notwithstanding the false historical bias, the "ballad of 'Bow Bridge'" is good, whilst "Hurrah! for the Iron Road" is a not unsuccessful attempt to infuse poetry into a topic generally held as prosaic. But Mr. Spawton writes well enough to be worth admonishing in one respect, viz., his rhymes; "sigh" cannot rhyme with "joy"! No doubt the little book has given much healthy pleasure to the author, and will give more to his friends.

"The Australian Abroad," by James Hingston (S. Low and Co.), is an entertaining volume of notes of travel, the outcome of a tour of the globe—without companions, save those found by chance on the way, and unassisted by guide-books—of an Anglo-Australian. The author simply recorded his impressions at the time, when they were still fresh, and consequently there is a bright vividness and a certain originality about his descriptions which make his book singularly entertaining. There is, withal, a remarkable amount of "go" in the style; and, though the cautious reader may feel inclined to take its very miscellaneous information *cum grano*, the book is just the one to pleasantly while away an idle half-hour, for it is fresh, odd, laughter-moving, and by no means too learned.

"Modern Household Medicine," by C. R. Fleury, M.D., &c., (E. Gould and Son), is a useful guide to the mode of recognition and the rational treatment (principally homoeopathic) of diseases and emergencies incidental to daily life, which should find favour. It is as far as possible untechnical, and, better still, describes many diseases which, as a rule, are omitted in books of this class.—Dr. Mortimer Granville's clever little volume, "Youth: its Care and Culture" (David Bogue), should be in the hands of every parent. It evinces a wide experience of the subject, and, without pretending to be a treatise in the ordinary sense of the word, gives some exceedingly valuable advice and suggestions in a remarkably terse and simple way.—A more bulky volume on a kindred subject, "How to Get Strong" (W. Blaikie; S. Low and Co.), is also worthy of every one's attention, whether old or young. It deals elaborately with the whole question of muscular development in a plain and untechnical way, and gives advice (and good advice, too) on every branch of this important subject. Though written for American readers, the book is, nevertheless, quite applicable to us in England, who, if not quite so bad as our Transatlantic cousins, are still far behind in the matter of general gymnastic culture.—Messrs. Macmillan and Co. have added to their "Art at Home" Series an appropriate little treatise on "Amateur Theatricals," by Walter Harries Pollock and Lady Pollock, which, brightly written, and containing many valuable hints, will be acceptable to those interested in the subject.—In "Oxford Days; or, How Ross Got His Degree" (S. Low and Co.) a "Resident M.A." has contrived to give, in an entertaining form, just that information which one never—well, hardly ever—finds in a guide book, and which is therefore all the more useful. It is really a work of some merit, whether regarded as a picture of University life, or as the "guide, philosopher, and friend," of the freshman, and—perhaps more particularly—his paternal parent or guardian.

In "Gleanings from the Natural History of the Ancients" (Cassell), the Rev. W. Houghton, M.A., F.L.S., gives us a series of lectures, touching some of the animals known to the early inhabitants of Egypt, Palestine, Assyria, Greece, and Rome, from the oldest historic period to about 250 A.D. The interesting subject, however, has been treated in a dry and somewhat pedantic manner, which detracts from the value of the book. There is, nevertheless, a good deal of curious information on an out-of-the-way subject.

We have also received a second edition of "Tippoo Sultan" (C. Kegan Paul and Co.), the attractive novel by the late Colonel Meadows Taylor; a cheap edition of "The White Cross and Dove of Pearls" (Hodder and Stoughton), a story of considerable merit; the seventeenth edition of the everlasting "Every Man's Own Lawyer" (Crosby Lockwood and Co.); and the issues for 1880 of the "Clergy Directory" (T. Bosworth); and—strange juxtaposition—the "Dramatic List," by C. E. Pascoe (D. Bogue), which latter is an admirable and interesting compilation.



"DONNA QUIXOTE," by Justin McCarthy (3 vols.: Chatto and Windus).—Mr. McCarthy may very possibly have gained much in wit and wisdom by his experiences as a legislator, but his warmest admirers will scarcely feel that the House of Commons has strengthened his hand as a novelist. His new story reads too much like a *rechauffé* of "Miss Misanthrope." Here, as in the former tale, the heroine is young, beautiful, and rich, and left unusually free to shape out her life for herself, free from outward interference or control. Gabrielle Vanthorpe is a young widow, after being a wife—though only in name—for three days, and as her dying husband has left her the whole of his property her means are large. Like Hamlet she has always felt that "the world was out of joint;" but, unlike him, she has rejoiced in the belief that somehow she was "born to set it right." But a few months' London experience are sufficient to raise a strong doubt whether acting on generous impulses is always following the path of wisdom and prudence. She cannot feel clear that with all her money and all her efforts she has done any real good to anybody; whilst to the one home which she was most anxious to benefit she has certainly brought not happiness but misery. This being so it is no wonder that she takes the advice of old Lady Honeybell, who tells her that she is too young and too pretty to live alone and make up plans for the good of her fellow creatures, and that she had better devote herself to the accomplishment of her true mission—that of making one man happy. But, of course here, as always in Mr. McCarthy's novels, it is to the by-play we really look for interest and attractiveness; and we cannot say that the by-play in "Donna Quixote" seems to us at all up to the mark of that in "Miss Misanthrope." Gertrude Elvin, the sulky singer who repays all Gabrielle's benefits with ingratitude, because, in spite of the kindnesses which her hostess heaps on her, she knows she does not really admire or believe in her voice, will not for a moment bear comparison with Herbert Blanchet, the poet not for the new school "which doesn't care much about Nature," any more than Major Leven or Mr. Lefussis can stand with Mr. Money or Mr. St. Paul. For the sensational "business" in the latter half of the book we admit we do not greatly care, and, indeed, incline to think that it might have been omitted with advantage.

"Little Miss Primrose," by the author of "St. Olave's," &c. (3 vols.: Hurst and Blackett).—We might almost characterise this

book as written by a lady at the tea-table for ladies at the tea-table, so fully does it seem to express the natural workings of the feminine mind when left to itself and freed from the intrusion of alien influences. No one but a woman, with a woman's delight in trifles, would have written the loving description of the furniture and "belongings" of the little room in "The Close at Hurchester," in which we first meet Nelly Willoughby, wishing "that only something would happen," and certainly no one but a woman could have entered so seriously into the question of the new dresses needed for Nelly on the occasion of the momentous visit to Heslington Cottage—a question which it takes the mature wisdom of "Little Miss Primrose" to settle, who pronounces in favour of "a clear white muslin, with pale blue ribbons, for the dinner dress, and a stone-coloured batiste for afternoons." No; "Little Miss Primrose" is essentially a woman's book, and though there can hardly help being a man in it, he seems rather properly ashamed of himself, and prepared to recognise that his business is to marry the heroine, and otherwise keep himself as much in the background as possible. Let us add—though concerning a story by the author of "The Blue Ribbon" the assurance is hardly necessary—that "Little Miss Primrose" is not only essentially a woman's book, but essentially a lady's book. The author invariably writes like a lady, and thinks like a lady, and though she may now and then stumble from weakness, she may be trusted never to offend our taste or our sentiment.

"European Slave Life," by F. W. Hackländer, translated from the German by E. Woltmann (3 vols.: Samuel Tinsley).—This book would seem to have been suggested to its author by "Uncle Tom's Cabin," as it was written almost immediately after that once famous story had made its European reputation. Hackländer thought it had a tendency to rouse exaggerated feeling for the negro, and led men to forget that slavery—in fact, if not in name—exists in all its horrors amongst ourselves. There is the slavery of young women, singers and ballet-dancers, shop-girls, and the lower class of governesses, to the men to whom they have to look for employment, and who are often as ready to abuse their power as any Southern slave-holder; the slavery of the starving author or translator to the prosperous and niggardly publisher, and so on. Of these, and the like kinds of "European slave life," Hackländer gives us some powerful pictures here—powerful enough, one would say, to secure attention for his book, though its subject, from the nature of the case, is not a pleasant one, and we should hope that it rather refers to a bygone state of things. The translation, we should add, is excellent.

"Love's Bondage," by Laurence Brooke, author of "The Queen of Two Worlds" (3 vols.: Samuel Tinsley).—This novel reminds us too closely of the old "Guy Livingstone" romance—Alice Vavasour here is Flora Bellays all over—and the unsuppressed cynicism of its tone is likely to stand in the way of its popularity. The hero loses first his life's happiness and then his life itself, as a consequence of the generous aid he has afforded to a helpless woman in distress. Still there is ability in the book of its kind, and it is certainly by no means ill written.

A GAINSBOROUGH HAT

THE Drury Lane Pantomime wishing to see,
I thither one afternoon hied,
And quickly discovered that then I could be
With a Dress-Circle ticket supplied:
In the second row, though, as it proved, was my place,
And directly in front of me sat
A young lady I couldn't behold in the face—
She was wearing a Gainsborough Hat!
It was covered all over with something like down,
And was clearly in excellent trim,
Though to me it appeared rather small in the crown
And enormously large in the brim;
To increase its dimensions, there nodded a plume
From a ribbonish bow or a plait,
And it certainly took up a great deal of room,
Did this wonderful Gainsborough Hat.
When the curtain drew up there were rounds of applause,
And presently laughter as loud,
While my simple conclusion respecting the cause
Was that something delighted the crowd:
And to join, if I could, in their cheerful delight,
I attempted first this way, then that,
Bent forwards, leant sideways, sat very upright—
Yes, and so did the Gainsborough Hat.
It was all of no use! The Obstructive in front
From her movements refused to desist,
So I found myself utterly out of the hunt,
And the pleasure I paid for was missed.
That the Drury Lane Pantomime's good I'll engage,
But to me its performance was flat,
Since, though *hearing* at times what was said on the stage,
I had *seen*—well, a Gainsborough Hat!

MORAL

Young ladies—I speak to the whole of the sex,
For every lady is young—
I trust that my tale will not one of you vex,
If upon it this Moral be hung:
Remember that head-gear of every kind
Is opaque; and, remembering that,
When you next to the play-house shall go, leave behind
Or else *take off* the Gainsborough Hat!

JOHN NORMAN



The British Tradesman, &c.: J. F. Sullivan. *Fan Office*.
Rural Bird Life: Charles Dixon. Longmans, Green, and Co.
Life and Writings of Henry Thomas Buckle (2 vols.): Alfred H. Huth.
S. Low and Co.
Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio (2 vols.): Herbert A. Giles. Thomas
De La Rue and Co.
Adventures in Many Lands: Parker Gillmore, Illustrated by Sydney P. Hall.
Marcus Ward and Co.
Queen of the Meadow (3 vols.): Charles Gibbon. Chatto and Windus.
Cædmon, Ralph, and other Poems: A. V. Irwin; Edna, a Tale of the Baby-
lonian Captivity (3rd Edition): Julian St. Clare. Charing Cross Publishing Co.
Watches, Their Relative Merits and Uses. T. A. Jones, 352, Essex Road, N.
Central Asian Portraits: Demetrius Charles Boulger. W. H. Allen and Co.
Palestine Exploration Fund, Quarterly Statement, January, 1880.
Lays and Legends of Cheshire: John Leigh. John Heywood and Co.
Beethoven Depicted by his Contemporaries: Trans. by Emily Hill. W. Reeves.
The Weird Sisters (3 vols.): Richard Dowling. Tinsley Bros.

THE TIME-HONOURED CUSTOM OF THROWING AN OLD SHOE after the bride and bridegroom had an unfortunate result at a recent negro wedding in North Carolina. Just as the happy pair were departing in a waggon, an enthusiastic friend owning a very large foot flung his shoe at them with such unfortunately good aim as to knock the bride senseless on the floor. The bridegroom jumped out, punished the unlucky thrower by a sound thrashing, restored his wife to consciousness, and then resumed the wedding tour.

A SCOTCH TENANTRY DINNER

THE relations between many Irish landlords and their tenants are so unsatisfactory that any incident serving to reveal a happier state of matters in a sister kingdom may not be uninteresting. The district referred to is within sight of the Irish coast, and the blood of its inhabitants is not without an infusion of the Irish element—the result of bygone immigration. Why human nature should be so mercurial on one side of the Channel and on the other comparatively solid and sensible is a question which would require a lengthened disquisition, and cannot be taken up here. But, in passing, it may be possible to indicate some aspects of the question which appear on the surface, and these seem to be (1) the temperament of the people, (2) the smallness of their holdings and the uncertainty of their tenure, (3) rack rents, (4) agitation of the Home Rulers, and (5) absenteeism. The present sketch bears mainly on the last-mentioned aspect, and the advantages that result from residence.

Residence on the part of a proprietor has undoubtedly an immense influence in promoting amicable relations. As the following narrative will show, residence may do more than reduction of rent to make a landlord popular. On this estate there has been no reduction, and the proprietor was candid enough to meet his tenantry in the midst of the recent agitation, and to indicate that there would be none, at least of a general character. The occasion was a tenantry dinner given to the farmers; and the scene had a lingering touch of feudalism, the portraits of ancestors seeming to look down approvingly, as the baronet welcomed his guests. In the dining-room four lines of table, shining in silver and gold, were occupied by a horny-handed, fresh-visaged, honest-hearted assemblage (each in his best, but few in evening costume), the landlord, supported by his two brothers, at the head. After an abundant but not sumptuous dinner, in which the hares and pheasants, familiar to every eye, were duly represented, there were the usual constitutional toasts, the junior brother replying for the Army, and expressing his surprise that parents should speak of such of their sons as had joined the army as "having gone to the dogs;" he did not see the force of such a lament, especially in those days of short service; if any of their boys did not take kindly to farm-work, they might do worse than go into training for three years; the benefit in discipline alone would be quite apparent; and he would give a hearty welcome to, and take an interest in, any recruits from the K— estate or neighbourhood. Could a soldier's post-prandial speech be happier? Here was an outlet for the spare nerve and muscle of the district under the most favourable auspices, and everybody knew the words were not *vox et præterea nihil*; had not the head of the house himself gone out of his way on distant fields to send home news about a forgetful or wounded son or brother, a spirit he had carried into private life, for (as an old farmer remarked) "he wad come aff the road, and tak' the pleugh out o' your hands."

The baronet proposed the "toast of the evening," the K— tenantry, and in a few reminiscences recalled various matters of interest. "He had been thirty years their landlord, having succeeded at the early age of seventeen, and he had learnt a great deal and gained much valuable experience. The management of an estate was very similar to other businesses; the owner must lay out money judiciously, looking for a corresponding return, if not immediately, at some reasonably distant period. During his own occupancy, fifty thousand pounds had been spent in improvements, and (though he did not enter into details) there was no one present but could call to mind proofs of the fact in improved farms, farmsteads, and cottages. Rents had risen considerably of recent years, and one or two bad seasons had latterly fallen upon them, but these had been exaggerated, and he did not believe that any of his tenantry would have to succumb; in fact, one of them had told him (referring to the harvest just over) that 'he had never had a better;' there might be cases of hardship worthy of consideration and recognition, but these could be discussed more satisfactorily in private, and he should be glad to see in his business-room, at a time convenient for both, any of his tenantry who really felt themselves in straits. The traditions of his family were all of a generous tendency; no well-doing farmer on the estate had ever been allowed to go to the wall, and there would be no change of policy on his

part; if a man really could not go on, he would make reasonable allowance, or take the farm off his hands; and he did not believe that there was any tenant on the estate who would come before him with a claim, who was not prepared to make an honest and truthful statement of his case."

The recollections of his audience all tended to confirm this statement, and the speech met with the reception to which it was justly entitled. A sense of justice too was at work in every listener's mind; a general reduction of ten to fifteen per cent. all over would not be an equal distribution of relief or benefit; the farms on the estate were all let on leases of nineteen years' duration, some of them quite recently at high rents, others at a more distant date at varying and quite remunerative rates even considering the present low prices of farm produce. In regard to these same prices (the speaker continued), low as they were, cheese but the other day at fourpence a pound wholesale (a cottar crying out quite audibly "but the eggs is dear"), they had been lower in 1851, but then wages were not so high, and the local assessments were fewer and lower; the school-rate, for example, not being in

"Nihilism" was raising its head in Russia, "Socialism" in Germany, "Communism" in France, and the "demon of discord" in Ireland, they might consider themselves favoured by Providence in being members of the comparatively peaceful community on the estate of K—.

Church, school, and other local interests were not forgotten, the parish teacher putting in a word for parental co-operation in securing regular attendance at school, and thereby enabling children to pass the requisite standard before the age of fourteen, which by some farmers was regarded as too great a limit, for children were found useful in weeding and harvest operations at an earlier age; and the parish minister bore testimony to their landlord's interest, not only in proprietary and church matters, but in the practical work of education, Sabbath after Sabbath, superintending a local school of 100 children, giving Bible lessons to the cottars', miners', and shepherds' bairns, a practice which did much to neutralise the "foreign" influences reprobated by his reverend brother. The K— family had for generations back been the centre of Christian influences, and the present head was no exception.

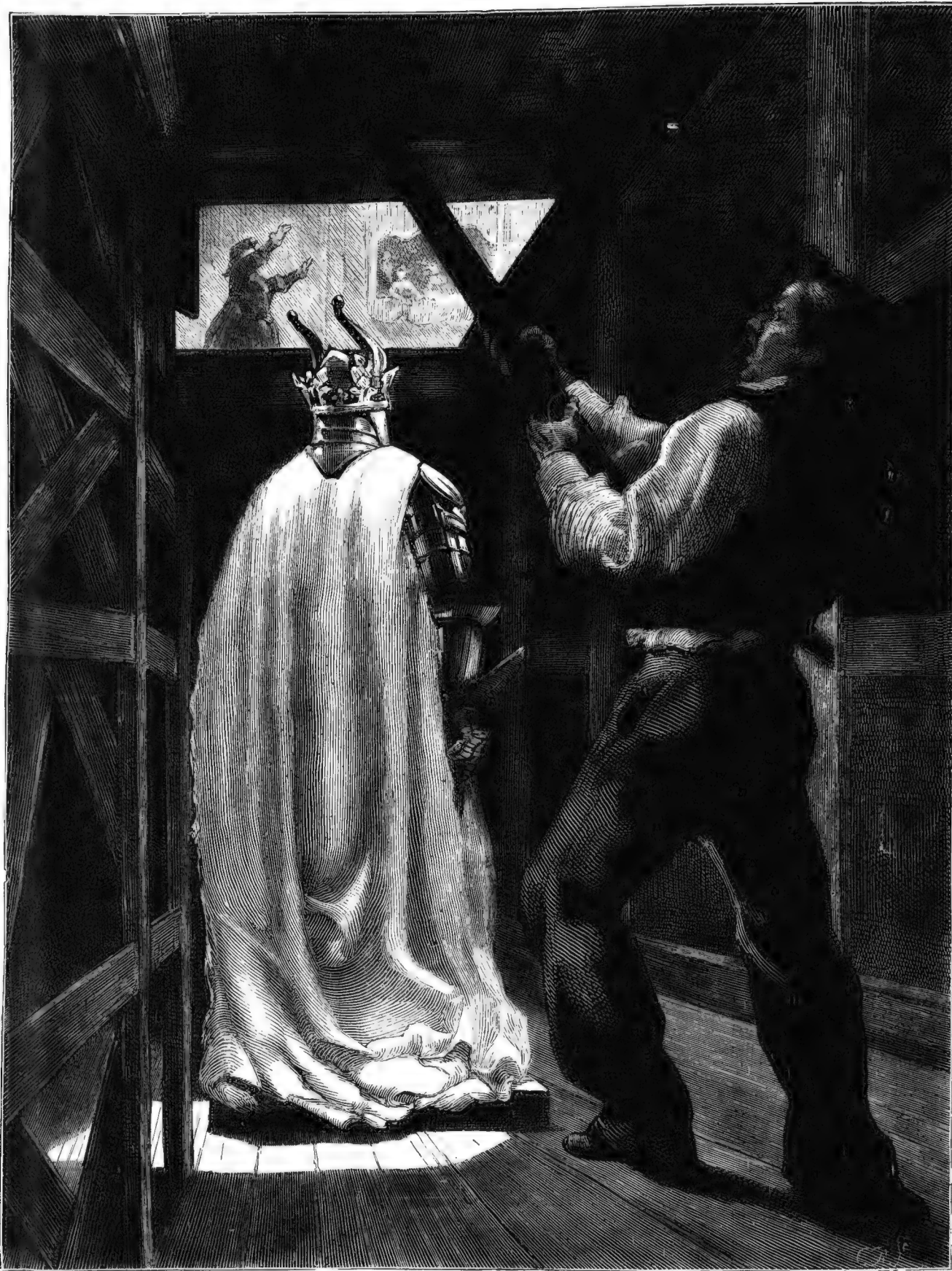
Songs enlivened the labour of eloquence, for though there were several present who could premise their efforts by saying "Accustomed as I am to public speaking," the majority could hold the plough or guide the reaping-machine with more effect; "having a speech to make," according to one tenant, "being apt to spoil a man's dinner;" a second had only attempted it once in his life, and having broken down, he had resolved never to repeat the experiment; while a third was heard to exclaim on resuming his seat that he was "thankfu' to be out o' pain."

While this brief sketch of a social meeting, calculated to promote harmonious relations between the various social elements represented, is chiefly illustrative of the benefits of residence, it is not without a bearing on the other aspects of the question. Agitation is impossible under such relations; if attempted, it could only end in ridicule, disapprobation, and failure. In the matter of rental, too, when a proprietor recognises the fact that Protection is as "extinct as the Dodo;" that though prices are low, it is a good thing for the country that they should be so; that though rents may be high, the proper remedy is a careful adjustment between landlord and tenant—an adjustment that calls for the interference of no third party, not even the Legislature of the country; and when the same proprietor says he is prepared to go into the question of adjustment when cases are brought before him, the happiest results are likely to follow. Is the temperament of the Irish so mercurial; are their grievances too deep-rooted to be remedied by similar influences and similar management?

The estate referred to affords a good illustration of the advantages of moderate-sized holdings on the leasehold system: there are no very large farms; few gentlemen farmers; and only one or two farms too small to give employment to a pair of horses; and these will, on the expiry of the current leases, be suitably dealt with. The present arrangement, in fact, brings out the energy and character of the tenantry, and develops the capabilities of the land better than any system of peasant proprietorship possibly could; and in this and similar cases it would be absurd, even though it were practicable, to return to the primitive arrangement, eulogised by Goldsmith,—

When every rood of ground maintained its man.

JAMES LEITCH



"BUT SOFT! BEHOLD, LO, WHERE IT COMES AGAIN"

A SKETCH BENEATH THE STAGE DURING A PERFORMANCE OF THE OPERA OF "HAMLET"

existence. In regard to the recently-appointed Commission on Agriculture, he did not think it would lead to any result of much practical value to the farmer; in fact, he did not believe that legislation could at any time effect much good in matters which in their nature were more capable of adjustment between the parties directly interested.

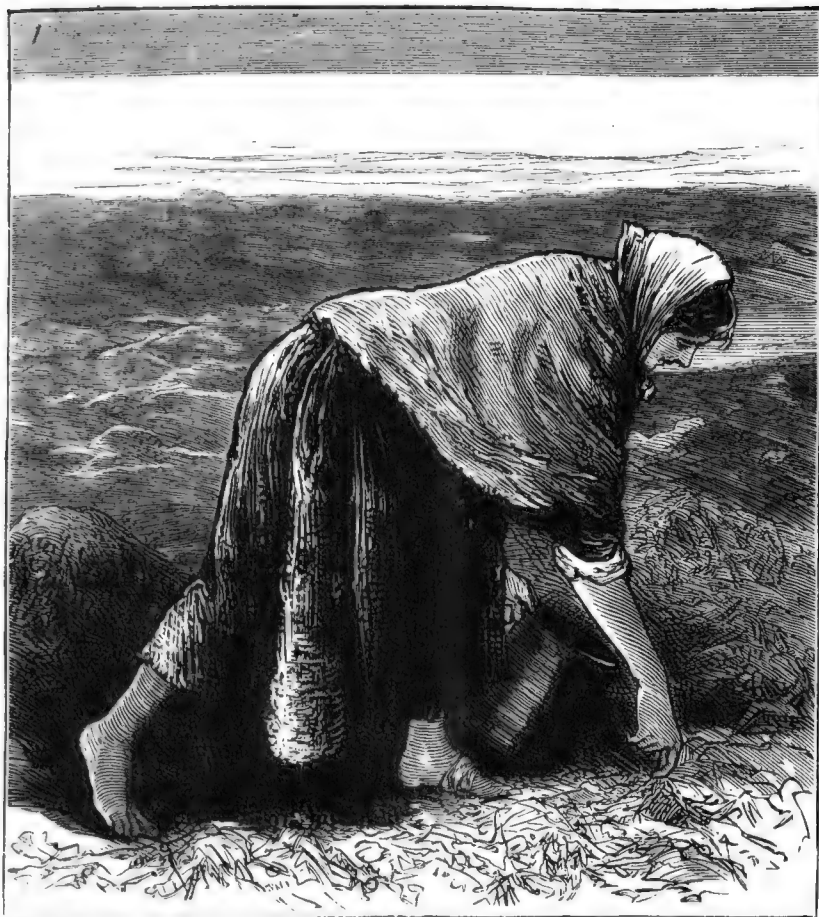
This expression of opinion was cordially received, as was also the next toast, the health of the baronet himself, proposed by the chief tenant, who created amusement by expressing thankfulness that their lot was cast not in Cork or Connemara, but in the quiet valley of the G—. He was sure there was not a single man present who could approve of the principle held out to the Irish of "paying no rent at all," or of becoming proprietors of their farms by the summary process of extinguishing or expatriating their landlords. Their own landlord was one who looked for a good return from his estates, but he was a man who would live and let live; he was happy to see his tenants making a good thing out of their farms; and, as they all knew, there were cases within the last ten years of farmers on the estate departing this life not only well-to-do, but wealthy. A country clergyman followed up by saying that while

similar cases it would be absurd, even though it were practicable, to return to the primitive arrangement, eulogised by Goldsmith,—

When every rood of ground maintained its man.

JAMES LEITCH

BRITISH PAINTINGS fill five galleries in the Sydney International Exhibition, the collection consisting of oils, water-colours, and architectural drawings. Indeed, the Fine Arts are so well represented that it was found necessary to build additional rooms, which opened on November 10th, and which include two galleries of French pictures, and three devoted to Belgium, Austria, and Germany. Melbourne, meanwhile, is preparing for a Social Science Congress, to be held contemporaneously with her forthcoming Exhibition, under the Presidency of the Government Astronomer, Mr. K. L. J. Ellery. The value of these international displays is clearly shown by the fact that, stimulated by the success of Teutonic exhibitors at Sydney, Germany intends to appoint a Consul-General in that city, and to fill up minor appointments in other Australian towns in order to push German trade in the colony.



1. Picking up a Meal upon the Coast, Killery Bay.—2. Market Sketch in Clifden.—3. Bringing in Fuel from the Hills near Kylemore.
THE DISTRESS IN THE WEST OF IRELAND—SKETCHES FROM OUR SPECIAL ARTIST

temporary ecclesiastical buildings erected in Westminster. The three divisions of the Exhibition will include a Loan Collection of Medieval and Modern Ecclesiastical Art, the original works of architects and artists, and, thirdly, those of manufacturers; while amongst the most prominent classes will be church pictures, mosaics, tiles, glass, sculpture and wood-carvings, embroidery and tapestry, illuminations, missals, sacred books and vessels, music and instruments, bells, heraldry and sacred symbolism, models of churches old and new, and Funeral Reform.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC finds his post rather expensive, notwithstanding his yearly salary of 24,000*l.*, and the similar sum allowed for travelling and household expenses. Every meal served at the Elysée is prepared for fourteen persons, in case of any chance official visitors, and twice a month a dinner is laid for sixty-five persons, which alone costs 6,740*l.* annually, while the expense of balls, receptions, and State dinners is remark-

ably heavy. The Ministers find their expenses equally great, and unless they have good private fortunes, generally leave office deep in debt.

CHARITABLE ITEMS.—The Chelsea Hospital for Women appeals for contributions to maintain this unendowed charity, which relieves gentlewomen in reduced circumstances and poor women who are unable to afford medical attendance. Some 2,000 new cases are received annually, and last year 7,733 out-patients alone were succoured. Land for the new hospital has been bought, and 1,000*l.* is urgently needed to enable building operations to be begun in the spring. Subscriptions to be sent to the Secretary, Mr. J. S. Wood, at the Hospital, King's Road, S.W.—The St. Saviour's Hospital and Refuge, Alfred Terrace, Upper Holloway, which receives young unmarried women for their first confinement and endeavours to restore them to an honest life, asks for assistance alike for working expenses and towards the extra expenses which

will follow on the forthcoming removal of the hospital, the having expired. Founded in 1864, the institution has treated 2 cases with only four deaths, and is the only one of its kind. Donations to be sent to the Secretary, at the Office, 87 and 88, 1 Street, E.C.—Funds are also greatly needed for the Central London Throat and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, to defray the expense of completing the wards. Nearly 25,000 persons have been treated in six years.—The East London Mission, 263, Cable Street, George's, E., also asks for help, which will be gratefully received. The Hon. Lady Superintendent, Miss Stewart, at the Mission. A free New Year's tea to over 300 destitute neighbouring poor lately given by the Mission; while in their turn, the Gray's Ragged Church and Schools, James Street, Oxford Street, gave New Year's breakfast to 700 persons, and that none should be appointed provided 500 others with a similar meal in the afternoon. Contributions for the support of the schools will be most welcome.

MARRIAGE.

On the 10th December, 1879, at Jamaica, by the Rev. H. J. Isaacs, Rector of Halfway Tree, WILLIAM RANTON FORBES, second son of the late Rev. WILLIAM FORBES, Rector of Manchester, Jamaica, to SOPHIA HELEN AUGUSTA, youngest daughter of EYRE EVANS, of Ash Hill Towers, Co. of Limerick, and Milntown Castle, Co. of Cork, Ireland, and the Hon. SOPHIA EVANS.

DEATH.

On the 17th inst., at 7, Stamford Road, South Tottenham, Mr. JOSEPH PALMER, aged 48 years.

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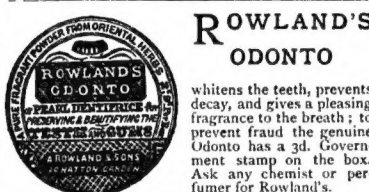
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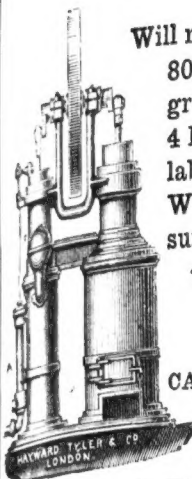
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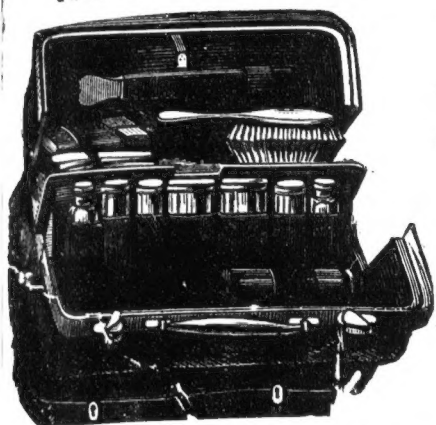
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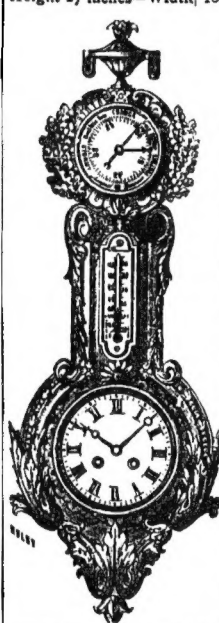
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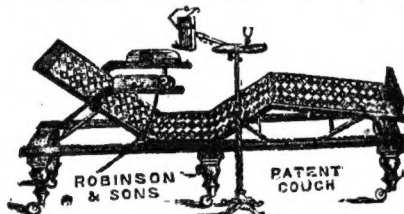
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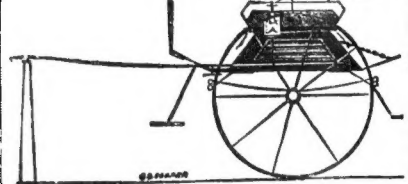
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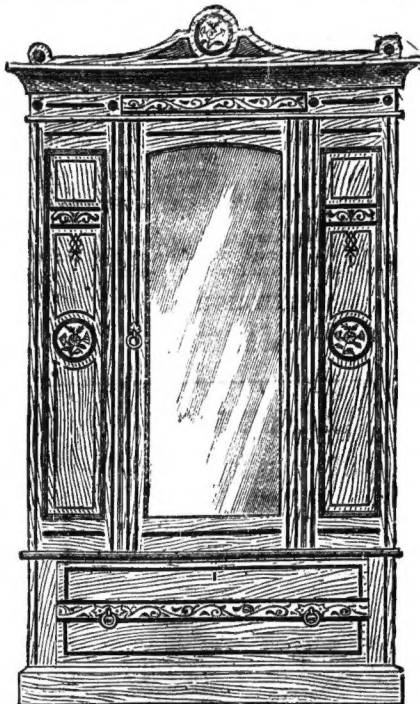
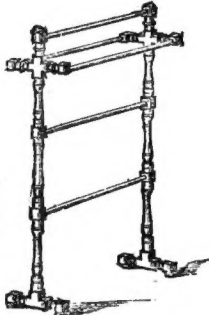
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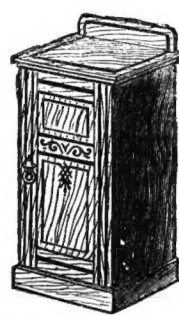
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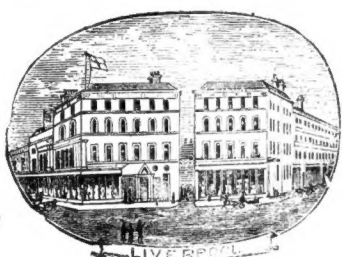
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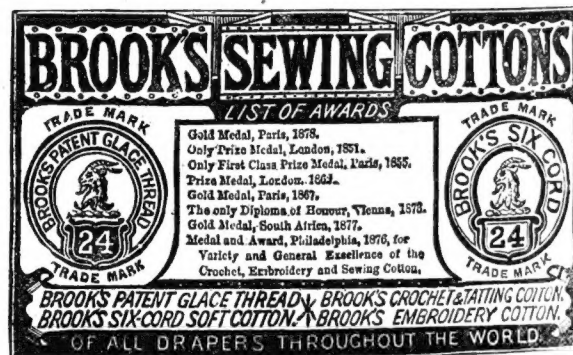


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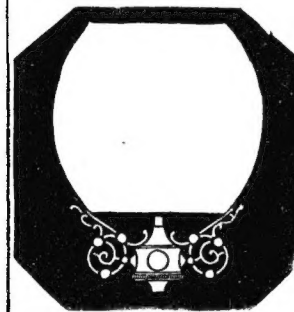
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